A stone grown

Wednesday October 9 1996

Jonathan Steele with the Taliban

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

The last word from the teenage terror 🧵 reasure's



Fighting to keep the rivers flowing

Labour and Lib Dem leaders demand cash-for-questions tribunal

'This damage to democracy'

Ashdown and Blair urge public inquiry

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

Paddy Ashdown the cash-for questions affair last night, telling John Major that his proposed inquiry was

Joining together in a united political act for the first time, they warned the Prime Minister that the issue was now raising serious constitutional questions and causing widespread public concern at the

damage being done to our democratic system". Mr Major has already said that the case of the disgraced former Tory minister, Neil Hamilton, and his links with the lobbyist Ian Greer should be investigated by the parlia-mentary ombudsman, Sir

Gordon Downey:
Mr Major, clearly angered
at being drawn into the affair with all its evidence of parliamentary sleaze, has de-manded that Sir Gordon should proceed as quickly as possible and his findings pub-lished. But last night, in an and Mr Ashdown sent him a joint letter saying that Sir

adequate because he has in-sufficient powers. They said: "Only an inquiry sitting in public, headed by a distinguished judge, would attract the public confidence which the situation requires. Such tribuappointed where there are serious allegations of corrup-tion or misconduct in public life, which require thorough, impartial and public investi-

gation. They offered procedures and powers ideally full inquiry on the basis of all Their letter was prompted by the disclosure of a memo written in 1994 by David Willetis, then a whip and now Paymaster-General. The two leaders by the Guardian,

The note showed that Mr Willetts had advised the committee to either A, claim that the cash-for-questions allega-tions against Mr Hamilton were sub judice and so could not be discussed, or B, they could "exploit the good Tory

when considering the matter. Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown tee on privilges and they would be given to him. say in their letter. "The document suggests political inter-Conservatives in ference in a committee which has a quasi judicial role. It

sures to bear on the committee of standards and

They add that investigation of a matter relating to political interference is outside Sir Gordon's remit, and that public interest demands a totally impartial inquiry which is seen to be in

They call on Mr Major to establish a statutory inquiry under the 1921 Tribunals of Inquiry Act, a course which the Guardian has also been

Downing Street last night said the position remained the same, that the Prime Minister had absolute confidence in Sir Gordon. However, Mr Major will find it politically difficult to ignore such a joint request, and will come under further pressure when the week. Both parties will call

for a debate. ence in Bournemouth, minis-ters and MPs dug in behind Sir Gordon, insisting he could conduct a thorough inquiry and there was no need for an

Str Gordon last night de clined to comment. Senior Conservatives insisted yesterday that the Willetts memo was simply a mat-

ter of a whip conducting an been promoted to minister in charge of deregulation, would not be drawn yesterday be-

yond expressing confidence in Sir Gordon. At a fringe meeting on standards in public life and open-ness in government, he said: "I am very pleased that Sir the documents and will be able to reach a clear conclu-sion on the basis of every

single piece of paper that could possibly be relevant." Tom King, the Conservative representative on the Nolan committee which scrutinises revealed that Mr Willetts had standards in public life, also discussed the Hamilton cash-for-questions scandal with Sir "There has been a lot of rub-Geoffrey Johnson Smith, at that time chairman of the Commons select committee on members interest.

The rote showed that the committee does not have the committee on the commit

send for papers and persons, and he lacks the authority. It is all rubbish." Mr King, a former defence secretary, said that techni-cally Sir Gordon did not have the powers but in reality any time he needed the production of papers or witnesses he only had to go to the commit-



The Blair and Ashdown letter

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to you about the cash-for-ques-tions affair. We are doing so because of the widespread public concern at the dam-age being done to our democratic system. We are of course aware

that Sir Gordon Downey is investigating the allega-tions against Mr Hamilton

nade by Mr Al Fayed following the collapse of the libel trial. There is absolutely no question about Sir Gordon's integrity or com-petence. He does not, however, have the powers of a Statutory Inquiry under the Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Act 1921 to get at the

Only an inquiry sitting in public, headed by a distinguished judge, would at-tract the public confidence which the situation requires. Such tribunals have traditionally been appointed where there are

Take two halves

of a Canaletto,

add Cuba and the National

Trust and what do you have?

Turn to page 3

for the answer

serious allegations of cor-ruption or misconduct in public life, which require thorough, impartial and public investigation. They offer procedures and pow-ers ideally suited to this

A new factor has risen as a result of a memo, a copy of which we have seen, which purports to be a minute of discussions involving David Willetts MP, then a Government Whip, and

now a Minister. This document suggests an attempt was made in 1994 to undermine the in-

vestigation into allegations against Neil Hamilton. Specifically, it suggests that Mr Willetts was asked for ad-vice on whether the Tory members of the Committee should argue that the Ham-ilton affair was sub judice, or whether to conduct the investigation exploiting the

good Tory majority at present on the Committee. The clear implication was that the end product of the second option would be a decision convenient for

Government. The document suggests
Turn to page 2, column 6

PM and Thatcher kiss and make up

buried the hatchet with John Major last night after six years of backstairs sniping when she exchanged kiss with her successor on servatives' conference, and finally conceded that Britain

is still in "safe hands". The former prime miniser's words at a private meeting in Bournemouth were the climax of a tightly-negotiated day's programme, and came after Mr Major had lavishly praised her for launching the

which he was continuing.
"Margaret, you started this revolution because you chal-lenged what socialists stood for and changed the whole di-rection of this country." said

we will have killed socialism for good . . . it is a prize worth fighting for." Thank you, John, for those kind words — it is good to know that the affairs of this nation are still in such safe hands," replied Lady Thatcher — who had failed on

five continents to be fulsame about the man who took over when she was ousted in 1990. The sight of the two ex changing even guarded flat-tery when they have feuded year over Europe and "One Nation" Torvisii wa an achievement for party managers. Mr Major repor-tedly avoided his 70-year-old Street party last month after his fury at her donation earlier in the summer to Sir James Goldsmith's European

Yesterday's meeting is a

senior Conservatives share that power is finally slipping away from them after nearly 18 years. Neither leader

wants to be blamed. Lady Thatcher, who joined the conference platform be-fore lunch, told her evening audience that Labour spin doctors were presenting last week's Blackpool conference as "one big revivalist rally of born-again Tory converts".

Yet if they had won the past four elections they would to at the fifth. For they fought us all the way" - on tax cuts union reform, privatisation and Cold War defence.

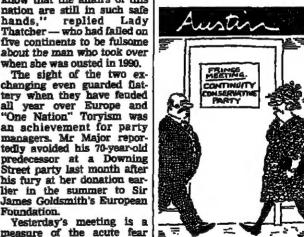
"If you want Conservative policies the best way of getting them is clear," she said.

"It is to re-elect a Conservative continue that it is to re-elect a Conservative continue that is the c

tive government. Why settle for second best?"

Mr Major told the audience Britain had been in "a very poor state" when Mrs Thatcher won in 1979, a watershed election like the

next one, he suggested.



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coalition government is lacing the threat of ano confidence. vote after a foreign policy liasco.

EDGIANC (OPE) sevarethe SPRT di EDAPO A Tuel West John Chenge analoste divided Polish team at

Obituaries 10; Crossword 15; Weather 16

Conference sketch

Let them eat cattle-cake



Simon Hoggart

ference looks stark and sinister, the flight deck of the Starship Enterprise withconversation ensued ("exact-

out the homely touches. During the debate on agriculture, they projected bucolic images onto the wings at the side: sheaves of wheat, a lady-bird, a bonkers cow being pushed into a furnace (I'm

afraid I made that one up). The motion was moved by Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger. Angry farmers were demon-strating outside the hall over BSE. It turned out, according to Mr Liddell-Grainger, that they were all in favour of the Government, which will "put the interests of the British third!"

Marie Antoinette could have used Mr Liddell-Grainger during the Revolution. "A deputation of sansculottes is outside. Your Majesty. I expect they are grateful for the cake."

Mrs Marjorie Simpson blamed the press, and Harriet Harman, "who deliberately caused the BSE panic!" At this point a giant mango appeared. is the Government claiming credit for global warming too?

Cllr Christopher Sills of Hackney demanded a boycott of European food. Mr Sills had tousled eyes and mad, staring hair. "We should have nothing to do with Continental food! The EU only wants us to buy their inferior products! (Cheers. An egg inexplicably Doated over his head.)

Mr Sills's voice began to go. "We shouldn't squeak this nonsense any longer! We must squeak French and German

Douglas Hogg replied with his familiar voice, simulta-neously complacent and panicky, like Mr Potato Head receiving a deputation of pro-testing Colorado beetles. Mr Hogg blamed Europe, the press and of course Harriet Harman — everyone except a government which allowed poisoned offal to be fed to our

The debate on Scotland and Wales was preceded by the PA system playing the Beatles' Come Together, though this is not the sort of union John Lennon had in mind. The chairman asked us to welcome the mover, Struan

Stevenson.

Lady Thatcher walked on. The applause was the shortest the has received since leaving office. Perhaps the delegates feared it was Struan Stevenson, appearing as Chairperson League of Conservative Cross-Dressers for a Single Currency. She sat down next to Norma Major, and a brisk

ly who are you, dear?"). Mr Mawhinney made quite a funny speech, though his accent defeated him when he said Tony Blair had sent his son to "a fine, grant-maintained skull, er, school".

He ended with an encomium to John Major: "This Man! This fighter. This common-sense, compassionate, decent Man. This True Brit. This Man. who twists in every breeze like a scarecrow with epilepsy!" (I must stop making

stuff up.)
What was hypnotic was the
way that This Man — who had
earlier bounded on to the
stage like a stag on HRT — has clearly been told to use body language to the full. His shoulders heaved at each joke. He shook as if in the grips of terminal hiccoughs. Sometimes his Jaw sagged in delight at each witty shaft. He has lost weight over the summer, and unnervingly, he often bared his teeth, which made him look like a fine, grant-maintained skull.

Michael Howard wound up for the day. His conference strategy is now plain. He sums up all the latest horrors of our disintegrating society — to be fair this process began before 1979 — and explains how they are all the fault of the Labour Party ("Tony Blair failed that test"). He then promises, at last, to do something about them: stalkers, child abusers, drug pushers, sex tourists, and rapists who cross-examine their victims.

Among the biggest cheers came for his declaration that "loving parents should be free to smack their children" (will we need a certificate of loving ness or will hateful, dysfunctional parents be allowed to as well?). He also announced that youth courts will be able to name offenders.

We are being recruited into a war against our own children. No wonder Mr Howard seemed slightly quieter, more thoughtful than usual.

First big attack in Northern Ireland for more than two years raises fears of full-scale return to violence

IRA claims army HQ bombs

David Sharrock ireland Correspon

HE IRA last night admitted responsibility for the double bomb attack on the army's headquarters in Northern Ireland, which left a soldier fighting for his life.

It was the first major attack by the IRA in Northern Ireland since it declared a ceasefire more than two years ago, raising fears of a full-scale return to violence in the

A telephone caller using a recognised codeword told the Dublin newsroom at RTE, the bombs had been planted and detonated at the army complex in Lisburn, Co Antrim, on Monday night by IRA

The IRA statement said injuries to any civilians were Earlier, the Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick

Mayhew and security sources on both sides of the Irish borier had pointed the finger of blame at the Provisionals. An earlier claim made to RTE by the Continuity Army Council, a shadowy republican splinter group, had been treated with scepticism.

A male caller claiming to

On the streets of Northern Ireland, the security profile was rising last night, with represent the council gave no

headquarters.

regards the attack as the most

damaging breach of its secu-rity since it established its

shot by police in London a

fortnight ago as they made

several arrests and seized 10

network, that two 800lb had been in retaliation for the once again manning vehicle bombs had been planted and death of Diarmuid O'Neill, checkpoints. Loyalist paramilitary leaders were also meeting to consider their response to the outrage.

A soldier, in his 30s or 40 tonnes of home-made explosive.
Michael Portillo, the De is the most seriously injured of the blast victims and was the last to be identified. He fence Secretary, said the Army GOC, Sir Rupert Smith, was in a critical condition in Belfast's Royal Victoria Hoswas leading the inquiry into pital with more than 50 per how the bomber managed to cent burns. He also has head penetrate what should have injuries and wounds to his been its most secure base. It left arm, which may have to is understood that the army be amoutated.

Three other people, two men and a woman aged 20-30, are being treated at the hospital. They are all described as being in a serious but stable condition with shrapnel head injuries and burns and one of the men has a broken

Twelve injured soldiers urere also still being treated in Musgrave Park Hospital, in Belfast. Three were said to be seriously ill.

ence Rocke, who is treating the victims in the Royal Victoria, said their injuries were typical of those inflicted by bomb blasts and suggested they were all within 10-20 metres of the explosions.

Sir Patrick, who returned early from a busines ence in the United States aimed at bringing investmen

tent with a terrorist organisation that declared an end to the ceasefire which it had procisimed in August 1994". The Sinn Fein preside

Gerry Adams expres sympathy towards the inured and said he was prenared to meet the Government, other politicians or Church leaders to rebuild the peace proc

"There has been a political vacuum here for some time. If we don't fill the political vacumm with real talks then it's going to be filled with the type of incident we saw yesterday," he said.

Dole ends where after

lan Katz on the campaign trail



I WAS difficult to avoid the conclusion that the schedule of Bob Dole's bus tour of New Jersey was a metaphor for his campaign: at the end of a long day on the road, the Repub-lican presidential contender found himself virtually back where he had begun. Mr Dole had hoped his ous trip would transport

him from the electoral doldrums, harnessing a "bounce" from his less inept than expected performance in this week's television debate with President Clinton.

Both the state and the mode of transport were carefully chosen. Three years ago, Christine Todd Whitman overcame a double-digit poll deficit to jet and helicopter. Clinton scare you. They're win the New Jersey governship by crisscrossing the bus had been neatly parked citizens and veterans."

Bob Dole, with New Jersey's Governor Christine Todd Whitman, greets supporters from his Asphalt I campaign bus state in a bus touting a 30 on the playing field of Toms per cent income tax cut. River High School with "There's something magic about riding on a bus with Governor Whitman,"

Mr Dole said, breezily ignoring the fact that even in this traditionally Republican state he is trailing by 10-15 points. "She won." Bus tours are one of Mr Clinton's favourite campaign devices. But Mr Dole who usually flies around the country in an aged 727, dubbed the Citizen's Ship,

of the set or to prevent Mr Dole from falling off.
The crowd was large but for his new conveyance. Instead of riding the bus to his first campaign stop in the little town of Toms River with the press corps, the Republican candidate completed the first leg by

showed little enthusiasm

made up mostly of high school kids bussed in for the occasion. Mr Dole adjusted his opening remarks accordingly: "Don't let

pieces of plywood under

each wheel to avoid damag-

declaring "Road to the

White House" and "Stop Crime and Drugs", the plat-

form was carefully designed to underscore the trip's road theme, although

it wasn't immediately clear

whether motorway-style

crash barriers on either side of the stage were part

Looking tanned and ca-sual in a blue blazer and khaki chinos, he did not look like a man staring into the jaws of a landslide

ing the grass.
With mock traffic signs defeat. Afterwards Jason Diehl. who attended the rally in lieu of a politics class at decent toilets," complinearby Brick Memorial one campaign veteran. High School, said he was impressed with Mr Dole but doubted he had won many young to vote."
Undaunted, Mr Dole

boarded his bus, an old converted Greyhound-style coach, dubbed Asphalt I. After a while he seemed to warm to his new form of transport, using a microphone to broadcast dry oneliners from Tannoys

past a man selling anti-Dole T-shirts.

The press corps who followed Asphalt I in four less luxuriously appointed The Clinton press buses had desks and power and decent toilets," complained In stark contrast to the

crowds who lined the doubted he had won many streets wherever Mr Clin-votes. "Most of us are too ton's bus went, the Dole motorcade, swollen by six secret service vehicles and as many police cars, at-tracted only a few bemused looks as it swept past squat malls and small suburban

In Milltown, a pretty suburban town where Gover-nor Whitman signed her tax strapped to the roof. "Bet cut, the crowd filled a small those aren't selling well." corner of the park which he barked as his bus rolled had been closed off for Mr

Dole's last rally of the day. A few young children had been arranged on a truck with a hoarding that said:

Vote for Dole, Defender of America's Destiny." His chinos were creased and he looked tired. If he was elected, he promise he would "send some these liberals back where they belong. I don't know where that is but wherever it is that's where they're

going As his motorcade sped along the New Jersey turnpike back towards New York city, one campaign veteran glanced out at the long traffic jams created by sealing off the highway. "There go a few more votes."

Unions flex muscles at

Throwing light on creative talent

Robert Dawson Scott | screens it follows Isis's search for her brother Osiris. Your

Dark Lights Tramway, Glasgow

LASGOW'S Tramway, the old tram garage that was pressed into theat-rical service for Peter Brook's Mahabharata eight years ago, continues to host the odd spectacular, Robert Lepage's Elsinore will be there in December. But more and more it is becoming a forcing ground for Scotland's emerging creative

Here is where you will find large-scale experimental theatre and dance, conceptual art -- it was where Tate prize nominee Douglas Gordon's 24 Hour Pyscho first burst upon an astounded audience — and new music by the likes of James McMillan and Tan

As a venue, it is far from neutral, still redolent of its in-dustrial past; yet because of that it doesn't set up the preconceptions associated with more conventional spaces. The result is that artists and audiences seem happy to go further down the experimen tal road together than they might elsewhere. Building or this happy circumstance, the city has developed an open-ended series of commissions at Tramway known as Dark Lights; there are no rules but "multi-media" projects seem

to be fashionable.
Take The Aretology of
Kyme, a piece of "digital

Egyptian mythology would need to be sharp to catch most of what Emily Sheard is sing-ing about, especially the bits in Egyptian. But with her ss outfit and mane of red hair she cuts a stunning figure on the empty stage and she has a voice that would melt stone. Cluny Strachan's score, oscillating between the dreamy chorales of a Howard Skempton and the insistent rhythms of Goldie, bespeaks a composer who knows what he wants and is happy to plunder as many different types of music as he needs to get it. Kenneth Davidson directs with a good eye for detail. Last month, KtC's Quiet

Night in was the fruits of an other commission. Devised by the company with the playwright. David Harrower, it is ostensibly more conventional returning home from assignment in Africa. Then the weirdness begins. First there is the stage; apparently a regu lar box-set of a room, in fact it is life-size photographs of a room pasted on to flats. As the apparently naturalistic action gets under way, scenes start to repeat themselves. Tiny vari-ations are built in which grad-

alter the relationships between the characters. Tom Stoppard writes plays about algorhythms. This play is an algorhythm of itself. Grato be fashionable.

Take The Aretology of Kyme, a piece of "digital opera" all about ancient Egypt. Aida it ain't. Scored for solo mezzo-soprano and video

is an algoritythm of itself. Graham Eatough, an actor of nonchalant ease, is the photographer who begins by writing an epitaph for a friend only for it to become, by the end, his own.

Carrying air rilles." Mr Jaloved and trusted you, but two chaufteur-driven Jaguars accused funded his lifestyle generosity of the public who by raising money for children."

Dead end for 'SAS' cabbie 'Public inquiry essential'

a Welsh taxi driver finally ended yesterday when he was jailed for 18 months after a trial which owed much to Bravo Two

Zero and even more to Billy

Anthony Jones, who drove a taxi in Porthcawl, south Wales, told his wife Diane he was a Lieutenant Colonel in the SAS. He maintained the deception for five years and was only exposed after he ar-ranged a "military" wedding ceremony. He hired an officer's uniform with ceremonial sword, and uniforms for six friends bearing the SAS's winged dagger emblem. When they refused to take part in the charade he claimed they ually but eventually radically

had been sent overseas on SAS duty. Cardiff crown court heard

Peter Jacobs, prosecuting, told the court that Mr Jones's deception started in 1991, when he gave his future wife a lift in his taxi and told her: "I'm not a taxi driver really, I'm working undercover for the SAS."

He went to extreme lengths to maintain the sham, bringing home a fake document which he said was the Official Secrets Act and telling her to sign it. He kept a collection of imitation firearms at home and twice changed his name by deed poll, claiming the IRA were on to him, the cour heard.

"He told his wife his life was under threat from terrorists and paid friends to patrol the hillsides around their home in take uniforms and carrying air rifles," Mr Ja-

bill at a reception for 40 sored walks and pocketing people, telling hotel staff it the proceeds.

Mr Jones, of Porthcawl, adthe proceeds. Mr Jones, of Porthcawl, ad-

mitted a total of 23 charges including stealing £6,000 from the British Institute for Brain Injured Children and obtaining a bank overdraft while an undischarged bankrupt. He also admitted obtaining credit while bankrupt, obtaining services by deception and per-

verting the course of justice.

Peter Heywood, defending, said his client was of good character and had no previous convictions. "He fell very much in love with Diane and wanted to cre-

ate this successful persona which she would admire. Once he had started this elaborate charade he was forced to go along with it. Events soon overtook him and he sank deeper and deeper into debt." Passing sentence, Judge John Curren said: "You not only fooled the woman who

Ashdown and Blair plead with PM to 'restore confidence'

continued from page 1 political interference in a Committee which had a quasi-judicial role. It will raise in the public mind fears that there may be attempts to bring similar pressures to bear on the Committee on Standards and Privileges.

The existence of the

memo makes it even more essential that such fears be laid to rest by a Statutory Inquiry. As you know, we sup-

ported the reference of the allegations against Mr Hamilton to Sir Gordon following the collapse of

the case. Great public concern has been expressed, and calls made for the es-tablishment of a tribunal under the 1921 Act. It would clearly be wrong to ask Sir Gordon to inves-

tigate a matter relating to political interference. If such interference did indeed take place, it is not narrowly a matter of Mem-

bers' Interests, or the fi-nancial propriety of an in-dividual MP's conduct. It is a constitutional question outwith Sir Gordon's remit We believe that the public interest demands a totally impartial inquiry

which is seen to be independent. There is a powerful case for encompassing in one in-quiry the memo apparently in Mr Willetts' own hand,

and all the circumstances surrounding Mr Al Fayed's dealings with Mr Hamilton. the libel action against the Guardian.

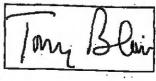
The appearance of this memo, however, adds a new and worrying dimension to the facts.

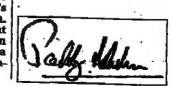
We therefore call for a Statutory Inquiry under the 1921 Act. You were quite rightly

categorical when you said on television that you wanted 'settled". We hope you agree that this matter will only be

settled if the allegations that the Committee was unduly influenced are addressed by a tribunal with adequate powers, sit-ting in public.

Yours sincerely,

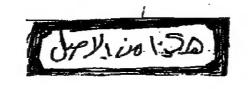




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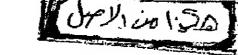
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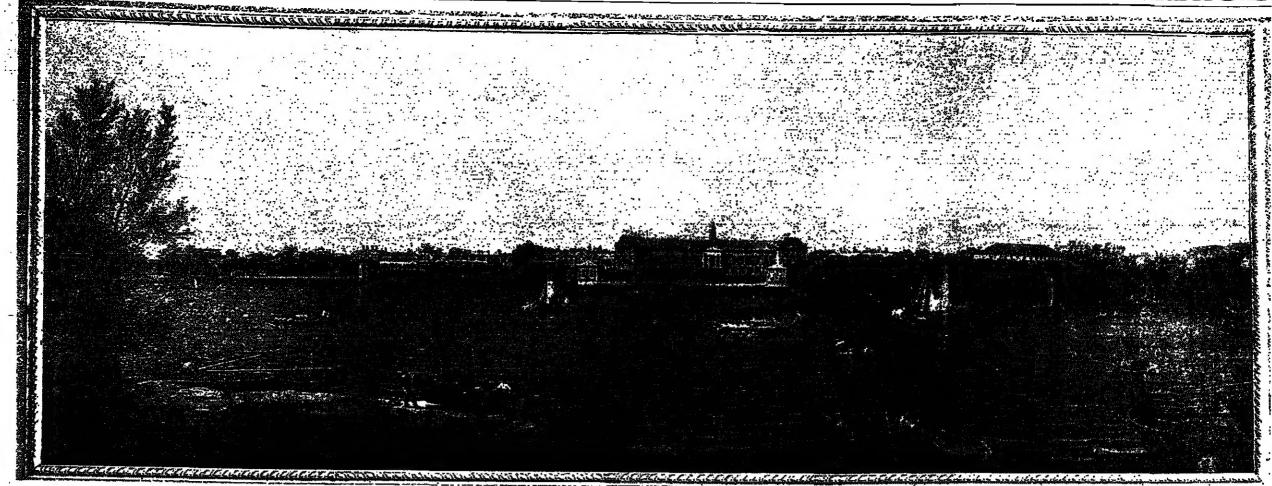
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Behind the forces, class Britain are i

Sarah Bosele





Just one Canaletto: give it to me

The National Trust wants to reunite a landscape, half of which it owns: the other half is in Cuba. Dan Glaister reports on the struggle to get the complete picture

it is disheartening news. For the government of Cuba it is a matter of national pride. The two institutions, not previ-ously thought to have much in common, each own half of a painting by the 18th-century Italian artist Antonio

Last year the Trust ap-proached the Cuban ministry of culture to buy the half on show in the Museo Nacional in Havana, but received no reply. Speaking to the Guardian yesterday, the museum turned down the offer.

"We've been approached several times over the years," said Manuel Crespo, head of European art at the museum, "but we've always said- no-They can always ask again, but the museum's position is that we have no intention of selling the picture."

However, he then appeared

OR the National Trust | "As national property it ulti-it is disheartening mately belongs to the minis-news. For the govern-try of culture, and if the Trust were to persist, perhaps they would consider selling the

> The Trust's art adviser Alistair Laing, who wrote to the Cuban ministry, said: "No wonder they didn't reply to my letter. They must be bored with other people approaching them. "It would be splendid to ar

range a purchase or swap, but it is almost a pipedream be-cause so many things have to be right — the condition of the painting, whether the Cu-bans would sell, and what it might be worth."
Estimates have put the price of the picture at £2 million, a substantial foreign

currency earning for Cuba. A spokeswoman at the Cuban Embassy in London said: "One million pounds? That would come in handy."



Blickling Hall, Norfolk, where half the picture has hung since 1768 PHOTOGRAPH: BRYN COLTON

tween 1746 and 1748, one of several Canaletto painted during a 10-year stay in London. It may have been com-missioned by Chelsea Hospi-tal, which features in the half

our side has no distinguish-ing features," said Mr Laing. The painting also shows Ray-

Canaletto advertised the painting but was unable to sell it, despite being fairly well known. Shortly before "The Cuban side does have his death in 1768 at the age of 1940. As late as 1955, the paint-Chelsea Hospital, whereas 71, he decided to cut it in half. ing was thought to be not by

to the 11th Marquis of Lo-thian, whose family owned the 17th-century Blickling Hall in Norfolk where it has remained ever since. The hall and its contents were handed over to the National Trust in

Canaletto, but by Samuel |

The right-hand half of Chelsea From The Thames was sold at Christie's in 1802 to a French collector, Paul D'Aigremont. It then disappeared before ending up in the gal-lery of a Cuban collector, Oscar Cinetas. Forty years ago, shortly before the Cuban revolution, he donated it to his country's national art

Gabriele Finaldi, a curator at the National Gallery in London, said: "Although Manet's Execution Of Maximilian was cut in half, it cer tainly wasn't common

Mr Crespo confirmed that the Cuban half was in good condition. The two halves are of slightly different sizes, as the Trust's half was cut at some point, probably to be framed. The Cuban half is 50in wide by 42in high, while the Trust's half is the same width, but only 38in high. Nevertheless, the two sides match and could be rejoined

relatively easily.

A deflated Mr Laing said yesterday: "If theirs is in per-fect condition, that rather raises the question of

Portrait of the artist



Giovanni Antonio Canal Canaletto — was the dominant figure in the 18th century Venetian school of vedute (skilled view) painting. He was born in Venice on October 18, 1697 and probably became known as Canaletto to distinguish him from his father, a theat

rical scene painter. After working with his father, Canaletto went to

Rome in 1719 where he de-

and on his return to Venice enjoyed contact with several wealthy foreign patrons. During the 1730s, the age of the European grand tour, he was kept busy by the demand for souvenir views of Venice. The War of the Austrian Succession in 1740 led to a fall in demand however, and Canaletto moved further afield. In 1746 he went to England, where he stayed until

topographical painting. He

1755, mainly in London. After his return to Venice he was elected to the Venetian Academy in 1763. He died there on April 20, 1768 Because of his popularity with English grand tourists. many more of his works can be found in Britain than in Italy. His masterpiece, The Stonemason's Yard, is in the National Gallery in Lon-

don, while several of his views of Venice are on show at the Tate Gallery in London in The Grand Tour: The Lure of Italy in the 18th Century, which opens tomorrow.

Patrick Donovan City Editor

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Clarke yesterday reinforced speculation that the Government is preparing a give away budget as he shrugged aside the interests of his most powerful City allies with plans to save £400 million a year by stopping tax relief on companies distributing surplus cash or shares to Stock Market investors.

The surprise move caused turmoil in the City as it will jeopardise more than £1.5 billion worth of investor payouts being prepared by some of Britain's biggest comnanies. Three payout proposals worth more than £800 million were last night put on hold as the City reacted to the

said it was reviewing plans to distribute £120 million and Allders, the department store, admitted there was now doubt over moves to give investors £50 million worth of

special dividends.

More than a dozen of Britain's largest companies have used the loophole to boost City support by distributing hundreds of millions of pounds to investors in the form of cash and free shares. They include National Power, PowerGen, NatWest,

This year so many companies are looking for ways of boosting their City standing with spare cash from boom-ing profits that the value of

than 2600 million due to be the Treasury in lost tax in the closure would have major approved by its shareholders today. Yorkshire Electricity break allows City institutions attempting hostile takeovers.

ordinary investors.

Mr Clarke said yesterday: "We have seen recently com-panies buying their own shares or paying special divi-dends in such a way that the proceeds end up almost en-tirely in the hands of those who are entitled to payment of a tax credit. This has costs for the Exchequer and if action is not taken soon that cost would escalate."

Labour criticised the Gov-ernment for not moving sooner. "The Tories are closing the stable door after many of the horses have bolted," said the shadow chief secre-

lion were last night put on hold as the City reacted to the news.

Reuters, the huge news agency and business information group, suspended a dividend bonanza worth more in the pound in income tax to loitte & Touche warned that warned that in group in group in the pound in income tax to loitte & Touche warned that will be a major impediment to a major impediment to over-capitalised companie returning cash to their the added: "The failure to close this loophole has cost the taxpayers dear."

Leading accountants Defined the shadow chief secretary, Alistair Darling.

He added: "The failure to close this loophole has cost the taxpayers dear."

Leading accountants Defined to over-capitalised companie returning cash to their close this loophole has cost the taxpayers dear."

City turnsoil, and Notebook, page 11

to claw back 25 per cent tax as many corporate predators on the value of the payout, exploit the tax loop-hole to This option is not provided to | make their offer more attractive to big City investors. And they warned that hundreds of thousands of small investors who hold shares through PEP

funds could see the value of their funds affected. "This could lead to a rethink on how the City does its business," the firm warned last night.

Major City firms were angered by the move. "The revenue crackdown is overkill." said accountants Ernst & Young. "The timing of this move is clearly linked to Reu-ters' special dividend but it has wide-ranging effects. It will be a major impediment to returning cash to their

Clarke axes £400m City tax break Sun apologises to Princess Diana over video 'hoax of the decade'

Vivek Chaudhary and Sarah Boseley

VIDEO allegedly show-ing the Princess of Wales and her former lover, James Hewitt, cavorting together was last night declared to be "one of the most elaborate hoaxes of the

Stuart Higgins, editor of the Sun newspaper which ob-tained the video and repro-duced stills from it across five pages, said the newspaper had been "conned by cunning fraudsters" and apologised to the princess and Mr Hewitt for any hurt or offence

The Sun - which has been criticised for invading the princess's privacy — justified publishing the story yesterday as proof of her allegation that she was under

The video showed a couple in a house, allegedly filmed through French windows from the garden at Highgrove, Prince Charles's Gloucestershire home, in playful mood. A woman, claimed to be the princess, is seen throwing a cushion at a man claimed to be Hewitt, and riding on his back as he crawls on all fours. She is also seen removing her tracksuit trousers and sweatshirt to reveal what the Sun describes

as "bra and pants". Mr Higgins refused to say who was behind the hoax, but added: "I take full responsi-bility for this mistake and will apologise in writing to both the princess and Mr Hewitt for any offence caused. I believe the Sun and myself were the victims of a sophisti-cated hoax deliberately aimed at embarrassing myself and the Sun newspaper."
Kensington Palace said last

night: "The Princess of Wales has authorised me to tell you that she does not recognise either herself or Major James Hewitt in these photographs." The Sun said last night it

was offered the film last week at a clandestine meeting with two men who acted as intermediaries. It added: "We made our best endeavours to independent witnesses con- to discredit her. On Pan-



Hewitt. We also hired surveillance experts to give their source of the film."

The revelation of the hoax came just before the Daily Mirror was to announce it had "irrefutable proof the footage is false and the people involved are not the princess and Major Hewitt". The newspaper carries a full report of the hoax in today's edition.

The Sun claimed vesterday to have been offered the video by "a smart American lawyer (who) claimed to be acting on behalf of a group of soldiers or bodyguards led by a myste rious man known only as The

It was told: "This is the material that was going to be used if the princess cut up rough during the divorce ne-gotiations. It gave the Palace a degree of leverage against her. No one knows whether she was ever confronted with

Yesterday Buckingham Palace was scathing about the suggestion. "The princess ad-mitted an affair with James Hewitt when she appeared on RRC TV's Panorama - before the divorce negotiations. So been used against her?" asked a spokesperson. The Princess has long been

known to believe that the security services were watching

She believed that what became known as the "Squidgy-gate" tape of her telephone conversation with a friend, corroborate the contents with | James Gilby, was an attempt





The princess at a fundraising event for the London Lighthouse Aids charity yesterday (top). And above, firming the apparent identity orama, she said she thought of the princess and Mr she had "become a problem".

James Hewitt outside his Devon home yesterday morning.

MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN STILLWELL

MP tries to take a load off the backs of French schoolchildren

Alex Duval Smith in Paris

MARION is 13. She weighs 148 kilogrammes. She picks up her satchel and stands on the scales. They register 60 kilogrammes. How much does Marion's satchel

Faced with the conclusion that French children are carrying at least a quarter of their bodyweight in textbooks, Marion's father, Jeanbooks, Marion's father, year open street of the go-ahead yesterday for a parliamentary vote on the parliamentary vote on t

Mr. Haby, the son of a former education minister, has drawn up a law under which ratio is at its worst during the land creating exercise-book

books, pencils, pens and

crayons. But his suggested education reform met with months of resistance from the education minister, François Bayrou.

"I was ribbed by colleagues who said I should have better things to do with my time," Mr Haby said. After broadening his sur-

children would be banned most critical growing period. from carrying more than 10 It is not unusual for 11-year favour of the legislation, per cent of their bodyweight olds to carry up to half their own bodyweight to and from for home-and-school duplicate school every day. The ratio improves later when children become confident about what they need to carry with

> Mr Haby, who wants text-books to be printed in several books to be printed in several volumes and exercise sheets to be provided in ring satchels on wheels have not binders, has drawn support binders, has drawn support think they look like shopping think they look like shopping

said many teachers believe the law would lead to lockers — seen as a disruptive "American" influence.

books. Luggage manufacturers

have responded with the launch this year of satchels on wheels and rucksacks with inflatable straps.

'The inflatable straps are mostly a gimmick and the

trolleys," Mr Haby said.

His proposed law, under which head teachers would be responsible for applying the 10 per cent rule, will be put to the national assembly during the autumn session.

Behind the silent steel doors of Britain's police forces, clever and courageous women who thought they could do the most macho job in Britain are reduced to tears and sick leave. Sarah Boseley and Maggie O'Kane

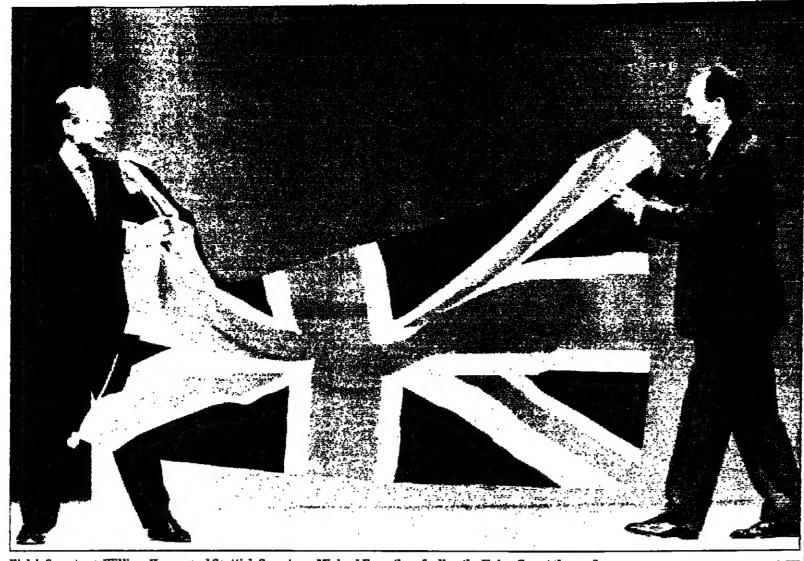
Inside Story, G2 page 4

EUROPE

Tebbit and Redwood lead right calls to rule out single currency before election

BSE

Major offers sympathy and says he will try to ease beef industry's plight



Cabinet pair side with sceptics NHS 'is a Tory

Michael White on coded but clear warnings by Howard and Portillo

yesterday joined a ferocious Euro-sceptic defence of British sovereignty against the looming threat of EU "federalism" and came close to endorsing claims that John Major would win the coming election if he ruled out a single European

currency.
The demand, widely supported by rank-and-file activists, produced dramatic evi-dence of its popularity at fringe meetings attended by up to 800 enthusiastic delegates. John Redwood and Lord Tebbit both told Mr Major he could not lead the party into the election campaign "saying it does not know whether it wishes to abolish the pound or not". Mr Howard and Mr Portillo

stayed within the agreed cablnet line as they trumpeted the danger that a Blair government would lead to "irreversible" concessions to Brussels their coded message was clear. In painting Labour and the Liberal Democrats as bent on destroying the ancient British state, the Tory right also It was a myth that Britain Amory, the Treasury minishighlighted the growing isola-was the "paymaster" of ter who resigned from Mr tion among MPs, candidates Europe. Germany and France Clarke's team in July to fight

HE Cabinet minis-ters, Michael Portillo and Michael Howard, pean. the Chancellor, Ken-

neth Clarke. Yesterday the home and de-fence secretaries sidestepped direct appeals to John Major to make rejection of the single currency an election winner.
But the tone of their speeches
was notably close to Lord
Tebbit, John Redwood and other outright dissidents on the conference fringe.

After Mr Major's robust de fence of his chancellor against pressure for his dis-missal on Sunday, Mr Clarke does not intend to use his conference speech tomorrow to raise the Euro-temperature Yesterday the task was left

Michael Portillo . . .

were both larger net contribu-

tors. Critics complained that Britain might have better

things to do with the £3 billion a year it pays "to an organisation whose employ-

ment policies are failing,

That jibe came during a concerted attack by the right

to the vice-president of the European Commission, Sir Leon Brittan, whose pro-single currency views are

At his session on the con-ference fringe, Sir Leon backed Mr Major's insistence rus and whose idea of free on keeping single currency trade is to spend our money options open. "He has been subsidising their factories, pushed and he has been bul- roads and fishing boats." lied. He has been pilloried for following a policy which is perfectly rational."

It was a myth that Britain Amory, the Treasury minis-was the "paymaster" of ter who resigned from Mr

undermining our capacity for self-government".

Mr Portillo invoked 1,000 years of British liberty — "unconquered since 1066" to lay similar stress on Brit-ain's position as a "global trading, global investing, scious country". He told a lunchtime fringe meeting that they had to prevent the creation of a "European fortress economy" while, elsewhere, Mr Howard said the Tories would win the election if they could con-vince voters they were deter-mined to fight any moves to

take Britain into a "United States of Europe"
"Only the Conservative Government is determined to resist that move. If we can only get people to understand it, I don't think there will be any doubt about the outcome of the general election," he told a meeting organised by the Conservative Way For-

ward group.
Like Mr Portillo, Mr How ard, John Redwood and Lord Tebbit, Mr Heathcoat-Amory emphasised Britain's long history as a globally-minded trading state, quite different bours. "It is the Euro-federalists who are the Little En-

the Eurosceptic corner. At a Bruges Group fringe meeting with Bill Cash's European Foundation, he claimed that the EU relationship was landered was landered to the EU relationship was landered to the EU relatio

THE Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, yester-day warned that Labour's plan for devolution would lead to the break-up of the thing as Scottish devolu-tion — there is only British dissolution. This is not a Scottish or Welsh issue — it is a United Kingdom issue,"

He and the Welsh Secre-tary, William Hague, held a huge Union Flag and stopped just short of wrap-ping themselves in it. Both received their loud-

est applause not for their anti-devolution rhetoric but and-devolution ractoric but for inserting Euro-sceptical sentiments. Mr Forsyth, to the discomfort of Sir Leon Brittan, the European commissioner, said: "We don't need lessons in parliamentary democracy from people

whose avowed aim is to sub-ordinate our Parliament to

Brussels and Strasbourg." But the Scottish Secre

But the Scottish Secre-tary's big day was marred by a leak from the depart-ment of his old rivel, the Foreign Secretary, Mal-colm Rifkind.

Mr Forsyth had planned to make the centrepiece of his speech an announce-ment of an investment proment of an investment pro-ject in which Hyundai, a South Korean electronics

company, will create thou-sands of jobs in Scotland. Mr Forsyth confirmed that the project would bring up to 4,000 jobs. But he was upstaged

when the news was leaked the night before by the For-eign Office. Mr Rifkind and Mr Forsyth clashed in 1989-1990, when Mr Rifikind was a liberal-leaning Scottish Secretary and Mr Forsyth a Thatcherite Scottish party

Hogg promises beef aid as PM meets farmers

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

HE Prime Minister vesterday said he "under-stood and sympathised" with farmers over the BSE crisis and promised to try to do everything he could to ease their problems. His pledge came after an 80-

minute meeting with farmers' leaders at the Conservative conference in Bournemouth, where the Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, announced a £45.6 million package of help for the beef industry. Mr Major said he could not

promise "that we can rub all the bruises away or solve all the difficulties. But I very much want to work with the industry, identifying the problems that we know lie ahead in the winter."

As angry farmers con-verged on Bournemouth earlier, Mr Hogg told the conference an extra £16.6 million

BSE. Another £29 million would be spent on disper cash payments to supplement the incomes of beef producers. But some of the 500 farmers demonstrating putside the conference voiced scepticism over the effectiveness of the

reasul indiffer

Mr Major met the National Farmers Union president, Sir David Naish, and his deputy Ben Gill. Afterwards Sir David said Mr Major had reassured farmers, although some felt betrayed that the value of their animals had fallen last week. .

Mr Hogg acknowledged that the BSE threat amounted to the "greatest farming crisis since the war" but con-demned the EU's worldwide ban on British beef exports as 'wholly unjustified' and urged it to recognise that the disease would largely have died out in the UK by 2001.

One farmer demonstrating outside the conference centre, Sandy Loud, of Okehampton. would go on clearing the Devon, said she wanted to see backlog in the slaughter programme aimed at curbing money in writing.

success story'

Rebecca Smithers Political Correspondent

HE Health Secretary. Stephen Dorrell, yester-day claimed the National Health Service for the Tories as an election issue as he taunted Labour for being "in a shambles" over

health policy.
Mr Dorrell was the guines pig in the first questions-and-answers session at the conference — an unusual departure from the Tories' usual set-piece speeches, and one which will be used again this morning to allow delegates to question John Major. Yesterday's 75-minute ses-

sion was short of any new pol-icy announcements. But the wide range of questions en-abled Mr Dorrell to explore issues ranging from abortion to homeopathy, and from nurses' pay to NHS

bureaucracy.

He faced criticism from some NHS staff who claimed they were "demoralised". But Mr Dorrell insisted to loud

applause that the NHS was now "a great British success story" after being under Tory control for two-thirds of its history. "It is our agenda." It was impossible to even imag-ine Labour holding such a 'constructive discussion".

Over the last 15 months he had faced three different shadow health secretaries in the Commons.

He taunted the incumbent Chris Smith, over a recent report indicating that Tony Blair is now considering inte-grating GP fundholders with non-fundholders. It would be "a first" if Mr Blair told his

spokesman about it first. On Labour's pledge that no cancer patient would have to wait for surgery, Mr Dorrell insisted that waiting times were not a problem, and that

imaginary money to solve an imaginary problem".

Primary health care was the "jewel in the crown" of the NHS, and "the result of choices made by Conserva-

Chairman's praise for Major, the 'true Brit'

Michael White Political Editor

HE Conservative Party chairman, Brian Ma whinney, yesterday revealed his strategy for turning the coming general elec-tion into a presidential contest between an untested Tony Blair and the man he praised as "this true Brit" -John Major.

Describing the prime min-ister as a self-made man from

Brixton whose success rested on a strong will - "some might even call it stubborn-ness" — he told the Tory con-ference: "John Major has shown again and again that he has what it takes to win through, whatever the odds." He coupled praise for Mr Major with derision for Mr

Blair — "We know he is a principled man, he keeps telling us so" — and lurid warnings of "irreversible change" which a Labour victory would mean for Britain, in-cluding a break-up of the Union, at least 10 higher taxes, and jobs lost by surren-der to the European social chapter and federalism.

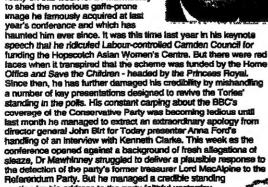
He also mocked Mr Blair's identification with Lady Thatcher by recycling Lloyd Bentsen's jibe at Dan Quayle in the 1988 US presidential campaign. "Mr Blair, I know Margaret Thatcher, Margaret Thatcher is a friend of mine. When Margaret Thatcher was rebuilding this country, you opposed everything she did. Mr Blair, you are no Marga-

But the crucial passage of his text, best received by activists, focused on Mr Major's qualities as a leader — "the most honest, plain-speaking and straight-forward man in British politics". His remarks made plain that Tory strate-gists will try to contrast Mr Major's experience and solid values — "learned at his father's knee" — with Mr Blair's relatively privileged



Progress report

The tide may well have turned for the rman, some of his colleagues were saying private consagues were saying privately yesterday. After all, things couldn't get much worse. The pressure is really on this week for Dr Mawhinney to shed the notorious gaffe-prone image he famously acquired at last



Today's performance

Has been entrusted to handle one of the week's biggest set pieces - John Major's hour-long 'questions and entrems' discussion on 'our nation's huter.' Desert on the policy consultation with more than 30,000 party members. He will co-ordinate questions put to the prime, minister from delegates, in a session which will be one of the most important of the confidences.

ration for his address to the party faithful yesterday

His big appartunity for a high-profile demonstration of his close tionship with the premier. Virtually guaranteed to be gitch-free

Today's business

Foreign Affairs (speaker Malcolm Rifkind)

Trade and todostry (an Long) Discussion on Our Nation's Future
 (John Major and Dr Brian Mawhinney)

Social Security (Peter Littey) Environment (John Gummer)

Transport (Sir George Young)

Keays returns to haunt the Tories with Black Book

SARA Keays, the House of Commons secretary whose affair with Cecil Parkinson shook one Conservative conference, has returned to haunt the 1996 conference — though not in person, writes Michael White. Her first novel. The Black Book, is being published tomorrow by Doubleday, and will be on sale at the conference. Given the trou-ble the Keays-Parkinson af-fair caused the 1983 Blackpool conference and the tenacity with which Miss Keays has fought for her rights and those of her daughter, Flora, eyebrows will be raised at the pros-pect that she is poised to cause more grief.

More of Sara's revenge.

some will murmur, recall ing the day when Miss Keays gave her side of the affair to the Times on the last morning of the confer ence and finally ruined the leadership's efforts to save the career of the then-

This novel is unlikely to have such an impact. Pre views suggest it is not the kind of parliamentary bonkbuster voters have come to expect. It appears to be in the

familiar tradition of the parliamentary thriller, one in which our heroine — a well-bred gel called Joanna stumbles upon a plot and is forced to make public the eponymous black book in which the whips' office records MPs' foibles

What they all seek is a hit which makes money and sells as a film.

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Edwina Currie's A Parlia-mentary Affair was far more salacious. The leftwingers, Brian Sedgemore and Chris Mullin, published thrillers with some statutory sex scenes. The party apparatchik, Michael Dodds, put notorious amounts of sex and improbable violence into the House of Cards series.

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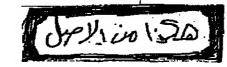
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Treasury 'is indifferent on environment'

Paul Brown Environmen

TIEMPTS to put pro-tection of the environ-ment at the centre of government policy have met with indifference by the Treasury, according to the Department of Environment.

In an annual progress report, it says the Treasury fails to understand popular concern and is unwilling to change "no go" policy areas such as transport, agriculture and fish stocks.

The department attempted

to discuss its £350 million expenditure priorities with the Treasury last year and managed to avoid having expendi-

However, the report states, "the Treasury took little interest in the review and did grapple with

The report, written by Paul Britton, director of the central environment protection unit, is part of the departits own performance. Government has

claimed that protecting the environment is central to its

ment believes in sustainable development, which he calls "not cheating on our children" by damaging the environment or misuse of

Mr Gummer also claims that Britain is in the lead in Europe on environmental

Mr Britton says in his report that this idea of sus-tainable development is not being translated into economic policy. The key factor is the European Union, but in order to have great influence. Britain needed to have "a stronger environment image in Europe". Elsewhere in the report, the

department worries about its public profile and its inability to take on pressure groups such as Greenpeace. It is sponsoring market research to give it a better image.

It is also sensitive to public criticism of the Drinking Water Inspectorate Michael Meacher, the

Labour environment protection spokesman who obtained the report, said: "John Gummer claims to be green, but his department's own inter-nal review shows that he has environment is central to its planning.

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, has repeatedly said the Govern-





A cannuabis user rolls a joint: up to one in five teenagers may have tried soft drugs, though Britain has some of the toughest legislation against users

to curb drug abuse

Stephen Bates in Brussels

OUGH national policies on drug users may be no more effective in cutting crime than those which are more lenient, experts work-ing for the European Union's

The centre's first annual report on the state of the drugs problem across the 15 member states concludes that the use of drugs, particularly hard drugs, is rare, but that users form between a third and 40 per cent of Europe's

prison population.
The surveys place the United Kingdom high on the list of states where drug abuse is common, despite higher penalties than in most other member states.
The British authorities' re-

cord in capturing illegal drugs is less impressive than countries with more liberal attitudes to drug use. Richard Hartnoll of the Lis-

told a press conference in Brussels: "There is little relationship between the prevalence of the problem and the policies adopted to combat it. There is no obvious, direct correlation between what countries do and

Britain has some of the toughest legislation against drug users with up to five years' imprisonment for smoking cannabis, seven years for the use of harder drugs and life imprisonment for trafficking. Other EU countries specify lower

enalties. In the Netherlands, the

The British are among Europe's heaviest LSD and ecstasy users

maximum sentence for smoking cannabis is a month, while a trafficker in hard drugs might receive less than four years. Spanish penalties are similarly light.

In 1994, Britain seized 63,021kg of cannabis, but the Dutch police captured 238,258 kg. and the Spanish 219,176 kg. The Spanish also captured more beroin and cocaine than the British.

Georges Estievenart, director of the the monitoring cen-tre, said: "If you look at the main figures for the Netherthat you can say there is a great problem with the overall approach. You don't have one case where results are brilliant and another where

they are lamentable."
The report estimates that up to 16 per cent of the adult population has experimented with illegal drugs, with up to 20 per cent of young adults admitting to taking them.

As many as one in five 15-16-year-olds are thought to have tried cannabis, 16 per cent solvents and 5 per cent amphetamines

A much smaller proportion of people have tried hard drugs. Fewer than 2 per cent are thought to have tried co-caine and I per cent, heroin. But it is believed that there are between 500,000 and one million heroin addicts in Europe. This is proportionately about half the level in the US.

In almost all cases, Britain has among the highest proportions to have tried drugs: 2 per cent of adults have tried cocaine, up to 16 per cent, cannabis. The British, along with the Belglan, Dutch and Spanish, are one of Europe's highest LSD and ecstasy

isers.
Drug use levelled off in the early 1990s but is now thought lands, say, or France, you will to be on the increase.

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News in brief

Deadline for NHS workers' pay deal

UNIONS and NHS trusts were set a five-week deadline yesterday to hammer out 225 wage deals and break the logiam in the new local pay arrangements for nurses and other health

Ken Jarrold, human resources director of the NHS executive, told both sides he wanted settlements in half the 528 trusts by November 12. At present, there are only 39 deals.

If the target was not met, Mr Jarrold warned, negotiations scheduled to start on November 12 on the annual uprating of national minimum pay rates would not be regarded as

"meaningful".
Union leaders dismissed the deadline as unrealistic. They expressed surprise at the move and thought Mr Jarrold had painted himself into a corner.

Roger Kline, head of labour relations for the Health Visitors' Association, said: "If he doesn't get all the settlements, or even get near, what does it say? It says local pay is a farce."

Trusts have proved to be very slow at reaching agreement on local wage deals, which were due for payment from April 1, under the nurses' pay award announced in February which provided for a 2 per cent national increase to be topped up locally. Local deals apply to other NHS workers, except doc-David Brindle

Channel 5 defends retuning

CHANNEL 5 responded angrily yesterday to claims by ITV that it had retuned video recorders in only 2 per cent of British homes. The station, which is expected to launch next March, said it had already retuned nearly a million videos to avoid interference

from the channel's signals.

Channel 5 said the figures, which have been sent to the Independent Television Commission, represented about 10 per cent of the 9.6 million homes they have earmarked for visits. The commission has said 90 per cent of videos must have been retuned before the station is allowed on the air.

A survey conducted by Continental Research and RSL for ITV claimed that after the first two months of the retuning programme 52 per cent of homes had received initial literature from Channel 5—and only 2 per cent had received a visit. — Andrew Culf

Social workers told of risk

SOCIAL workers were warned twice that six-year-old Rikki Neave was in danger in the months leading up to his murder, a

jury at Northampton crown court was told yesterday. Rikki's mother, Ruth Neave— who denies killing him in November 1994 — told social workers at a meeting in March 1994 it would be "on their heads" if he was not taken away from home. A jury heard that a foster carer who visited the Neave house in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, in late September 1994, said he warned the family's social worker that Rikki was at risk and living in a "volatile" household.

The court was told that Neave had once written the word

"idiot" in green felt pen and capital letters on Rikki's forehead.
Witnesses also said she had once cleaned his mouth out with
washing up liquid and had claimed to be "high priestess of the

Brothers found hanging

THE bodies of two men believed to be brothers were found hanging from a tree in what is thought to have been a suicide pact. The middle-aged men were found on Monday at a beauty spot near Clifton Bridge, North Yorkshire. Relatives of the men, who did not come from North Yorkshire, were to identify the bodies yesterday. Police said the deaths were not suspicious.

Charity workers' awards

WINNER of the 1996 Guardian Jerwood Award for charity workers is Margaret Carey, founder of the Inside Out Trust. Set up less than three years ago, the charity is now working with 20 prisons where inmates are making and sorting goods for developing

countries and disabled people.

Ms Carey, from West Sussex, receives a prize of £4,000. Highly

commended and each receiving £2,000 are Barry Schofield, general secretary of the British Paralympic Association, and Jenni Thomas, founder of the Child Bereavement Trust.

There were more than 160 entries for the award, which is cosponsored by the Guardian and the Jerwood Foundation, a charitable trust.

David Brindle table trust. — David Brindle



Unions flex muscles at millionaire

Gary Younge

EPUBLICAN Congressman Dick Chrysler's life story reads like the ultimate American dream - a tale of taut boot straps and rugged individual-ism that took him from a janitor to a multi-millionaire in little over a decade.

He thinks others could do the same and for the past two years he has been trying to cut Medicaid, slash welfare and cut taxes, to make sure they have no excuse not to. Playing the underdog does

for re-election he says he feels like David fighting Goliath. "The labour bosses are using their members' dues to buy this seat," he says. "This has nothing to do with the people of Lansing but power and control of the unions in Washing-

Mr Chrysler is one of more than 30 Republicans, mostly freshmen, whose voting re cords have been attacked by America's largest trade union federation, the AFI-CIO, in a \$35 million (£23 million) advertising campaign called Labour 96

"We are running ads in dis-tricts where there is a large union presence and there are incumbent congressmen who have voted against working families," says Amanda Fuchs, an AFL-CIO spokessending co-ordinators to 86 | has responded with advertisecongressional districts to or- ments attacking the unions ganise volunteers and distribute leaflets.

Earlier this week the House

The labour bosses are using their members' dues to buy this seat'

speaker. Newt Gingrich, claimed that the campaign could prove decisive in the Democrats' bid to recapture Congress. The Republicans have stepped in with an advertising campaign specifically attacking the unions -The hig labour bosses. Big money. Big lies. Big liberals."

and defending Republican for what they do. The new era is largely at-

the first pro-Republican Congress in about 40 years," says Bruce Josten, the vice-president of the US Chamber of Commerce, which is spearheading a 30-strong coalition of national business lobbies. The unions are delighted. The very idea that they could have this much influence was unthinkable even a year ago.

mixture of nepotism and infighting has kept them from wielding any serious independent influence igan AFL-CIO. "We have rehabilitated the infrastruc-

Only 15 per cent of the country's workforce is unionised

and for the past 40 years a

so that our members can hold | at a rally outside the New | national mood. Mr Chrysler any politicians accountable

tributed to the AFL-CIO president, John Sweeney, who took over the organisation after an insurgent campaign against Lane Kirkland, who had held the post for 16 years. Mr Sweeney believes that the ex-cesses of the last Republican Congress and the upcoming elections give the unions the ideal opportunity to flex their muscles in a way that the National Rifle Association

and anti-abortionist lobbies did during the 1994 elections. Mr Sweeney, aged 62, regu-larly speaks in terms of class conflict that would make John Monks, the TUC's general secretary, blush "American workers will rise up and take back from you what you

York Stock Exchange. On the front line of this proxy war between labour and capital stands Mr Chrys-

The labour movement can hold politicians accountable'

ler and his Democratic opponent, Debbie Stabenow, in a closely fought race for Michigan's eighth district in Lansing It is the type of seat the Democrats will have to win if they stand a chance of taking back the Congress.

Ms Stabenow is marginally ahead in a politically volatile

won it in 1994 when the country swung heavily Republican: Mr Clinton took it in the 1992 presidential election, as did George Bush

in 1988. "It is a strange district. It should be Republican — but moderate Republican," says William Ballenger, editor of the newsletter Inside Michigan Politics. "It takes a per son with a finely tuned political antennae to take a seat like this. Chrysler is not that

sort of person. Two years ago Mr Chrysler stood full square behind Mr Gingrich and the shopping list of radical reforms commonly known as the Contract with America. But, unlike other Republican freshmen who have sought to distance themselves from Mr Gingrich

18 months, Mr Chrysler has remained a diehard conservative.

However, Mr Chrysler's no litical consultant. Tom Shields, says that if the Denny crats win this time if will be thanks to the unions. don't want to fight the AFL-CIO because they are not en the ballot. If she wins, Debbie Stabenow will be in the back pocket of the AFL-CIO," he

That is unlikely. Ms Staenow is a supporter of the North American Free Trade Association (Nafta) and Mr Clinton's recent welfare reform — two issues which the unions have bitterly opposed. When she stood in th Democratic primaries for state governor in 1994 she did

US jail murder 'provoked by talk-show'

Jonathan Freedland In Washington

OLICE in Florida be-lieve jail inmates were provoked by a radio talk-show to kill a fellow prisoner, a convicted child

Detectives claim Donald McDougall was bludgeoned to death following an on-air offer of a \$1,000 (£650) reward to anyone who killed him. The case centres on the con-

troversial Orlando disc jockeys "Russ, Bo and Dirty Jim", whose loyal following apparently extends to the Avon Park Correctional Institution where McDougall was being held.

Prison officials say inmates reported hearing a caller to the show place a bounty on the head of McDougall, who became one of Florida's most reviled criminals after he was found guilty of killing a girl aged five in 1982.

Ursula Assaid died after enduring a torturous 55-hour ordeal in which she was starved, deprived of sleep, made to stand naked in a suitcase and forced to eat soap. McDougall was convicted of er with the child's mother.

Listeners to the Russ, Bo and Dirty Jim show on September 25 were invited to mark the anniversary of Ursula's death, and to celebrate a successful local campaign to keep violent criminals in jail, which had

focused on McDougall's case. One caller, according to prison officials, offered a reward if McDougall should meet the same fate as the serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer, who was murdered in jail.

News in brief

lailed in US

News reporter

David Kidwell, a reporter for

the Miami Herald newspaper

who refused to testify about

an interview with a murder suspect, has been sentenced

by a Florida judge to 70 days in jail for contempt of court.

answer questions about an in-

terview with suspect John Zile

and has until Sunday to do so.

A court in Lyon, France, said

yesterday it would deliver

verdicts on November 22 in

the trial of 23 members of the

Cult verdict date

manslaughter. - Reuter.

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Mr Kidwell refused to

Prison officials say that as soon as they were alerted to the bounty, they placed McDougall under protective custody. According to the authorities, he was killed last Tuesday - within hours of his protection being dropped

at his own request. Lawyers for the inmate charged with the killing, Arba Barr, say they do not know if the broadcast influenced their client, who is serving a 114-year sentence for a string of violent assaults and robberies.

The radio station, WTKS-FM, refuses to confirm if it has not released a tape of the Russ Rollins - the Russ of

the programme's title insists his listeners do not take the show that seriously. regarding the presenters as "stupid, bucketmouth rednecks just goofing around". He told the New York Times his show was more concerned with "breasts and beer" than with grave matters of crimi-But the episode comes amid

rising concern over the consequences of unrestricted free-dom of speech — guaranteed under the United States constitution's First Amendment.

The trial began this week of Jonathan Schmitz, who is accused of killing a male neighbour who revealed a secret crush on him on a television talk show. Lawyers say Mr Schmitz was so humiliated by his ap-

pearance on the Jenny Jones Show that he was driven to murder. The dead man's family are

suing the show's producers for \$25 million, claiming they caused his death.

Show of hands . . . Bill Clinton greets supporters at Hadlock Field in Portland, Maine, the president's last stop on a three-state campaign tour

PHOTOGRAPH: RUTH FREMSOI

 $\mathcal{L}, 1350$ as

American South unites behind last confederate wife

Jonathan Freedland | five minutes. in Washington on the unexpected find of a surviving link to the civil war

Mother imprisoned A Frankfurt court yesterday jailed a woman aged 40 for taking money to let her children be used for sex. Four acquaintances were jailed for sexual abuse. — Reuter. be surprised at suddenly becoming the toast of American historians. Her memories may be

Auschwitz plan Poland's government yester-

day approved a plan to man-age the site of the former Nazi death camp at Auschwitz aimed at ensuring "rever-ence" for it, following a row over a plan to open a shopping centre opposite it. — Reuter.

Thirsty elephants

A herd of thirsty elephants destroyed several illegal breweries south-west of Cal-Church of Scientology on breweries south-west of Cal-charges ranging from fraud to cutta, officials said yesterday. - Reuter.

The Guardian

Party Conference:

At the Heart

Is Europe a winning issue?

of Europe:

Is exit an option?

Can the Party unite?

Rt Hon Norman Lamont MP

The debate will be chaired by

The Guardian's Hugo Young.

Yes or No?

Debate 1996

T THE age of 89
Alberta Martin has
spent her life in obscurity, and may have cause to

fading but, as the last widow of the southern confederacy, she is being hailed as the final surviving link to the American civil war. Alabama officials, who had thought the last confederate wife died in 1986,

have just awarded Ms Mar-tin a widow's pension. in recognition of her marriage to a soldier who fought for the South in a war that ended more than 130 years Civil war buffs — and southerners who continue to venerate the "Lost Cause" against the North —

campaigned hard for Ms

Martin, who was struggling in near-poverty. The Alabama state senate said it was "a true joy" to be able to declare her the last widow of a confederate

And at a recent centennial meeting of the Sons of Confederate Veterans she was greeted with a stand- slaves.

Ms Martin's status is the result of an unusual mar-riage: in 1927, at the age of 21, she became the third wife of William Martin, a veteran of the Fourth Alabama Infantry, Com-

pany K.
He was aged 81. She had seen him playing dominoes near her parents' house.
"We talked a little over the fence," she told the New York Times.

The biggest lure, how-ever, was the war pension the former confederate soldier received.
"The old man drew about

\$50 a month — and, you know, that was big money back then." she said. He died five years later but not before he had sired a son. Now aged 68, the boy is admired by aficionados as a so-called "Real Son" —

one of a handful of surviv-

ing offspring of the confederacy. As for Ms Martin, she married again within months — to her former busband's teenage grandson, Charlie.

Conforming to one southern stereotype, she was si-multaneously his wife and step-grandmother.

The attention given to Ms Martin has dismayed black and civil rights groups. They say the confederacy is being glorified, even though its struggle was largely a defence of the right to keep blacks as

Sarajevo has become the world's yardstick for war, the best-known measure of a

G2 cover story

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Kabul is three times worse.

Jonathan Steele in Kabul

Finding threatens to stall legislative programme

Italian court ends 'rule by photocopy'

equacian October of

T IS one of Italians' favourite commonplaces that, despite appearances, there is "order beneath the chaos". However, a ruling from its constitutional court may now ensure there is only chaos beneath the chaos.

Unless action is taken in the next few weeks, restrictions on the production of hazardous chemicals will end, soldiers fighting the mafia will have to be withdrawn from Sicily and work will stop on a string of multi-mil-lion pound construction pro-

jects in Rome.
In the meantime, the country's legislative programme will be in imminent danger of paralysis. The deputy prime minister, Walter Veltroni, said yesterday: "There is a very real risk of getting into a standstill situation.

The crisis arises from what Italians jokingly refer to as "rule by photocopier". For years, governments side-stepped the ponderous proce-dures for getting a bill through the Italian parlia-

ment by issuing decrees.

The senate and chamber of houses respectively, have equal powers, so bills often bounce back and forth be-tirst decree is due to run out: votes were essential to the tween them almost indefi-the government's painstaking ministration's survival.

nitely. Fabio Mussi, the coverhaul of the state broad-leader of the main govern-casting corporation, the RAI, ment party in the chamber, will cease to have legal status yesterday described it as

doing ping-pong". The constitution provides for decrees but says they should be issued only in response to emergencies. They can remain in force for no onger than 60 days.

However, in practice, governments have used decrees to legislate for many nonurgent contingencies. When one runs out, an identical de-cree is often issued in its

Among more than 50 decrees on the statute books are measures for the privatisation of the tobacco monopoly, the streamlining of govern-ment audits, and the regulation of the ports. The longest standing has been reissued 18

This practice has now run into a legal brick wall: the court ruled it unconstitu-

The judges kept the ruling secret until the authorities were told. It was late on Monday that the news leaked out.

Mr Mussl said that the court had set the government un bei problema, which roughly translates as "a right

In just over two weeks, the

casting corporation, the RAI, will cease to have legal status

or a claim on public funds. Five days later, a key part of the rescue plan for the Alitalia airline will go the same way.

to prepare Rome for the Holy Year in 2000, and permit the army to guard key sites on Sicily and free police for the war on organised crime. The most notorious exam-ple of a "photocopied decree"

however, gives force to Euro-pean Union legislation on the disposal of toxic waste. The measure was prompted by the 1976 Seveso disaster, north of

manding an act of parliament for years and warned that, if Italy would be the only safeguards inspired by a disaster on its own territory.

The constitutional court reached its decision after considering a decree that allowed ted an offence to be deported without appeal.

The previous government issued the measure to satisfy calls for action on immigration from the breakaway Northern League, whose votes were essential to the ad-



Rescuers surround a Russian cargo plane which crashed into a village while trying to land at Turin airport, north-west

Pope given clear

John Hooper in Rome

on his feet today and in the Vatican early next week, according to the opti-mistic version of his state of health given out vesterday after a successful operation to remove his appendix.

The surgeon who carried out the operation, Francesco Crucitti, told journalists that no trace of cancer or any other serious illness had been detected either during surgery or in tests carried out while it was in progress.

But Professor Crucitti dodged the question of whether the 76-year-old pon-tiff might be suffering from Parkinson's Disease. In so doing, he revealed that a team of specialists was monitoring the violent trembling of the Pope's left arm that first provoked speculation.

"I can only refer you to those doctors, since I myself have never followed this problem," Prof Crucitti said. Last night, the anaesthetist who took part in the opera-tion, Corrado Manni, appeared to be preparing public opinion by stressing that a degenerative neurological disorder did not imply any loss of mental powers

"One thing is Parkinson's Disease, another Alzheimer's," Dr Manni said.

There have been several indications recently that the spiritual leader of the world's several bundred million Roman Catholics may have Parkinson's.

On a tour of Hungary, the pontiff's spokesman was quoted as indirectly confirming the reports.

Prof Crucitti dismissed any idea of a recurrence of the tumour which he removed from the Pope's colon four years ago. "I categorically rule it out," he said.

He said the Pope could get out of bed today, and might be able to leave hospital next

Foreign 'fiasco' News in brief hits Turkish PM

Chris Nuttall in Ankara

■URKEY'S first Islamistled coalition government is facing the threat of a no-confidence vote after a foreign policy flasco over attempts by the prime minister, Necmettin Erbakan, to states in Africa.

Mesut Yilmaz, leader of the main opposition Motherland Party, described the trip — which saw a rhetorically talks in the outcast state of Nigeria yesterday after receiving a diplomatic knee in the groin from Colonel Muammar Gadafy in Libya as "the biggest foreign policy scandal in Turkey's history". He demanded the prime

minister's resignation. Failing that, the Motherland its nobility and its past." Party will force a debate on foreign policy which, it said, ad to a vote of no con-

In Nigeria, Mr Erbakan held talks described as cor-dial with the military leader, General Sani Abacha, whose country remains under limited Western sanctions for its hanging last year of nine minority rights activists, and its failure to undertake a swift return to civilian rule.

A delegation of about 200 businessmen, including chief executives of some of Turkey's largest companies, are accompanying the prime minister, who is discussing oil and gas co-operation with

Turkey's foreign ministry is reported to have opposed the Nigerian and Libyan trips, arguing that "flaunting an Islamic identity" was not necessarily grounds for good relations with Muslim countries. Despite such

strong objections from his domestic secular establishment and from the United States, Mr Erbakan went abead.

In Libya, which is also under sanctions, he was treated to a lecture from Col Gadafy against Turkish supeparatists.

Kurdistan should be established." Turkish newspapers quoted Col Gadafy as saying at a news conference while Mr Erbakan sat in an awk-ward silence. 'I am talking about the Kurdish nation. This nation should have its place under the Middle East-

The Libyan leader also criticised Turkey's close ties to the West; "Turkey has lost its will. Turkey's future lies not in Nato, US bases and in repressing the Kurds but in

The prime minister replied politely that Turkey had a terrorism problem not a Kurdish problem. His delegation also agreed plans to in-crease trade with Libya. The foreign ministry subse-

quently announced it was temporarily withdrawing its ambassador to Libya, but Mr Erbakan's meek response un-leashed a whiriwind of criticism from Turkey's overtly nationalist politicians. 'He should have got up, spat in his face and left," said Yasar Okuyan, a member of the Motherland Party.

The leftwing Republican People's Party (CHP) and Democratic Left Party (DSP) tabled censure motions yes-terday. The DSP said foreign policy was in such a mess that the country would fall unless the prime minister fell CHP motion said "the Republic of Turkey has never been placed in such a

humiliating situation".

Checkpoints

removed

Burma's opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyl responded to the military's removal of checkpoints around her Rangoon home yesterday by promising to resume weekly public meetings.

The checkpoints were set up on September 26 to prevent Ms Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy from holding a congress. The ruling military council said it had released the last 63 NLD detainees being held. — Reuter.

Indonesia's pro-democracy tri began a law suit against the national election committee in Jakarta yesterday for rejecting her candidates for the 1997 elections. The committee last month refused to accept her candidates after it received a list from the government-backed faction of her party. — Reuter.

Dissident held

Police in Beijing detained the veteran Chinese pro-democ-racy acitivist Liu Xiaobo yesterday at his home, family

Boat capsizes

Fifty people drowned when their boat overturned on the Rokel river near Sierra Le said vesterday. — Reuter.

Refugee staff cut

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, has announced plans to reduce the agency's Geneva staff by one-third because of funding problems.— AP.

Fantasy island

Greek police yesterday arrested 75 illegal Kurdish immigrants on Crete after a tanker captain had convinced them that they had arrived in

Yeltsin's aides queue up to spill the beans

Allegations are flying between those hoping to succeed the Russian president, reports David Hearst in Moscow

incriminate the others to an attempt to improve their next Russian president.

Moscow's powerful mayor, Yuri Luzkbov, declared open season on his political rivals yesterday. In an interview with a mass-circulation Russian newspaper, he criticised the prime minister. Viktor Chernomyrdin; the presiiential chief of staff, Anatoly Chubais; the leader of the Communist Party, Gen-nady Zyuganov; and the se-curity chief, General Alex-

Mr Luzkhov said he was not declaring his presiden-tial ambitions, and that he would stick by Mr Yeltsin "to the end". But the mayor's remarks left the im-pression that he considered himself the only figure worthy of election in a post-

CLAN war has broken out among Boris Yelt-sin's top political aides, with each trying to bais was using Mr Yelstin's heart disease as an excus to assume far greater powers than his post allowed.

He accused Mr Cherno myrdin, the former minister of the state gas complex Gazprom, of harbouring an "inexplicable love for the oil lobby". Mr Chernomyrdin has family interests in Lukoil, one of the big oil

companies. Meanwhile, another rival for power, Alexander Korz-bakov, Mr Yeltsin's former bodyguard who hitched his star to Gen Lebed, accused Boris Berezovsky, a leading businessman and political friend of Mr Chubais, of wanting to kill business

In an interview, Mr Korzhakov alleged that the businessman had come to him with an offer to do away with Mr Luzhkov and one of Mr Luzhkov's financial



General Lebed: Accusations of murderous intent

zinski, and two other

people. Mr Korzhakov's claims were intended to burt Mr sible for his dismissal in July along with Mikhail Barsukov, the former head of the Federal Security Service, and Oleg Soskovets, the former deputy prime minister.

As the president's secu-rity chief. Mr Korzhakov is believed to have bugged the offices and private homes of most of the government. He hinted in a previous interview that he was pre-pared to reveal their secret business dealings and bank script of a conversation se-accounts abroad. screlly taped — allegedly by Mr Korzhakov has been

accused of masterminding 'a state racket" through a shadowy body called the National Sports Fund, which made millions of dollars from its right to import duty-free alcohol and ciga-rettes. Shamil Tarpishev. Mr Yeltsin's former tennis coach, was sacked as sports minister on Monday, after allegations of his and Mr Korzhakov's links with the

The affair blew up in May when Boris Fyodorov, a forner protégé of Mr Tarpishev, was arrested on drug charges. He claimed that he had been set up so that he could be dismissed. A nonth later he was shot and stabbed but survived to tell his story.

On Sunday he alleged on television that several days before he was attacked a member of Mr Korzhakov's Kremlin guard, Colonel Valery Streletsky, had accused him of stealing \$300 million (£200 million) from the fund and demanded \$40 million to keep

A Moscow newspaper had

Mr Fyodorov — in the of-fices of Mr Berezovsky, the chairman of the biggest car dealership.

In the conversation. Mr Fyodorov accused Mr Tarpishev, Mr Korzhakov and Mr Barsukov of conducting the extortion racket

This week, in another in terview. Mr Korzhakov admitted the existence of the tape and said: "[Berezovskyl was very frightened — all white. His hands were shaking. He handed over the tape and even the transcript . . . and began to blame everything on Fyodorov.

Grigory Yavlinski, the liberal economist who breakthrough in the presidential elections in July. said yesterday: "One thief is stealing the stick with which to beat another thief. This is a clan war about access to the budget and to the biggest monopolies in the country

"Those in power today have become dangerous for the country, because they into a criminalised, monop

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Exploding the peace

Is there an alternative to the slide back to war?

a political act and the Lisburn barracks car bombs on Monday night were more than usually calculated acts of violence. The timing, on the eve of the Conservato be misunderstood. The placement, especially given the security system around Lisburn, indicates a professional republican operation not a stunt by a breakaway group. The Continuity Army Council which claimed responsibility yesterday is almost certainly a convenient fiction to distance Sinn Fein from the current sequence of

Interpreting such events can easily become a mug's game. But the overwhelming inference this time has to be that this is a major operation mounted from within the Provisional IRA. It is partly designed as a provocation to loyalist paramilitaries to abandon their increasingly precarious ceasefire. The Lisburn explosions took place literally within earshot of a meeting at the Maze between loyalist prisoners and their political allies. All voices have rightly urged the loyalists not to respond, but there can be little doubt that this is becoming an increasingly vain doubtless be repeated.

This was by far the most important act of violence to have taken place in Northern Ireland since at least 1994. It marks, on a large scale, the resumption of lethal assaults on the Army. It means that all Army and police activity in Northern Ireland - and possibly elsewhere — must now proceed on the basis that the IRA will kill soldiers and police officers if they can. It is a return to the operational methods of the 1980s. It is a profoundly retrogressive step, and no one should delude themselves that any aspect of the Northern Ireland situation will now be anything except more difficult than it was before.

Some republicans may still believe

EVERY bombing in Northern Ireland is | that such bombings will have the perverse effect of forcing the British government to bring Sinn Fein into the Northern Ireland talks process. If so, they are doomed to disappointment. tive Party conference, was too precise | Even in the unlikely event that the IRA now promptly announces a fresh ceasefire - an outcome for which there is barely an ounce of evidence - it is simply not politically possible for Sinn Fein to be admitted to the talks at the moment. There is no basis of trust upon which that can happen. It would not be realistic to expect Unionist parties to remain in the talks in that event. In any case, the Conservatives could not persuade their MPs to support such a move.

This is therefore a politically pointless act. The republican movement gains nothing by it, and loses yet another slice of its already very thin credibility. This does not mean that Sinn Fein will necessarily be displeased by this outcome, since its priority now seems increasingly to be focused on defeating the SDLP to become the primary political force in Catholic Northern Ireland. Since events like Lisburn mock the SDLP's strategy of participating in the political talks, they will

It is necessary to ask, therefore, whether there is any alternative at present to this gradual descent back into armed conflict in Northern Ireland. It is genuinely hard to see one that any British government of whatever party could honourably follow. It would, of course, be desirable to strike a compromise deal in Northern Ireland within which, with public consent, a pluralist Ulster could prosper in a three-stranded system of reform. But there wasn't much evidence that this was ever seriously on the republican agenda. And what has happened in Lisburn only confirms the grim conclusion that, for the IRA, the struggle is preferable to any possible outcome.



Mr Howard must learn: prevention is better than prison

tary four Conservative conferences ago. That was the occasion when huge carcasses of red meat were fed to the carnivores: 27 separate initiatives to tighten the law 'n' order screw. More, much more, followed including last year's package of minimum sentences, due to be implemented in the current parliamentary session. So what has happened? Unsurprisingly, the biggest post-war rise in the prison population. Already almost 50 per cent higher than three years ago, it is still rising at 1.000a-month. But what has happened to crime? Michael Howard had a lapse of memory yesterday. He failed to remind delegates of two important reports released by his department only two weeks ago. Far from turning the tide, Michael Howard looks set to be swamped: violent crime is up by 10 per cent and the latest national crime survey suggests that the true number of offences is four times as large as the five million recorded in the official

Imagine what Michael Howard would be doing with such statistics if he was in opposition — the delegates would have been scared even to venture out on to Bournemouth's streets. So what's gone wrong? The home secretary's biggest failure has been his insistence that law 'n' order can be achieved by law. It cannot. That's why Tony Blair's tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime | polls on crime show Labour ahead.

FORGET yesterday's promises. Let us | still carries such resonance. Prevention look at earlier pledges going back to cannot be ignored. Punishment should Michael Howard's first as home secre- not be given a higher priority than detection, as a succession of police, senior judges and researchers have tried to explain. Of course serious offenders should be sent to prison, but a criminal justice system which only chalks up one conviction for every 50 recorded offences cannot solve crime by itself. Other programmes are needed to meet the challenge of the 49 out of 50 offences where there are no convictions. Yet there was no new money yesterday for the Safer Cities programme, no new funds for local crime prevention schemes, no support for crime diversion projects.

Instead, it was more of the same old recipe. So he proceeds with his automatic minimum seven-year sentences for repeat drug pushers, automatic life sentences for second serious sexual or violent offenders, and new minimum sentences for repeat burglars all of which have been rejected by not just the senior judiciary but the senior Tory establishment as well. The populist does not listen. He's got a parallel package of non penal punishments including naming-and-shaming juveniles, disqualifying non-motoring offenders from driving, new stalking laws and shutting down clubs where drugs are available. What was missing yesterday was any recognition from the speaker of his lack of credibility. The Tories are no longer the law 'n' order party: the

For whom the Nobel tolls

The economics prize contains explosive material

THE NOBEL PRIZE for economics often | guished Cambridge professor, (who generates wry amusement among mainstream scientists. Not simply because it has become something of a monopoly for economists in the United States (they have won 60 per cent of all of them) but because the discoveries don't always seem to affect the real world in the way that other Nobel prizes in areas like physics and medicine do. Last year it was won by the controversial "rational expectations" theory under which consumers are supposed to anticipate government decisions and act accordingly often negating them: the year before it went to three economists applying "games theory" to corporate situations and in 1993 to two economic historians one of whom demonstrated that slavery, however, repugnant, was an economically efficient system. Well, fine ... but so what?

This year it is almost embarrassingly topical. James Mirrlees, the distin-

shares the \$1.12 million prize with the Canadian, William Vickrey) won it mainly for his work on the way tax levels can affect incentives to work and what the optimum tax level is. Professor Mirriees, who spent 27 years in Oxford before returning to Cambridge, said something yesterday which dare not speak its name at a Labour Party conference these days let alone a Conservative one. He believes that tax rates in Britain "could reasonably be higher, particularly for middle income earners". He has in mind top marginal tax rates of between 40 and 50 per cent raising revenue for health services. education and welfare payments. Such heresy is enough to make an iron shadow chancellor well-Browned off. What Professor Mirrlees says may be economically sound but it is deemed politically incorrect and that's that. Old Truths don't New Labour make.



And the sleaze goes on Camping rights for gypsies: the government pitches in

OLLOWING the latest disclosures in the Neil Hamilton affair, the public understandably may well have doubts as to the effectiveness of any "self-regula-tory" procedures established by this Government (Hamilton must step down now, say voters, October 8).

Why not insist in future disputes that the civil action proceeds as planned; all costs to be borne by the Treasury and damages awarded in the usual way but made payable to the Treasury rather than the successful party?

Such a procedure (only to be used where a genuine "public interest" issue is involved and when one party withdraws) would be an effective use of public money, and would ensure that all relevant documents be disclosed and witnesses be cross-

Above all the outcome would be widely accepted by taxpayers who will, in any event, underwrite the cost of the proposed enquiry to be conducted by Sir Gordon Downey.
John Blamire.

Haytraps Cottage,

A miscellany

AM happy to confirm that

the impact of spending deci-

aions in schools on the provi-

sion of books and equipment

as announced in our last

annual report, is progressing

well. The report which we

While it should be expected that a non-Tory such as myself should enjoy their discomfiture, the past week's events have a far greater significance. The arrogance that lies behind those who abuse the privilege of their position has been revealed. Perhaps more significantly, the actions, or rather their absence, in the case of the Prime Minister, are more revealing

than the findings of any tribunal. James Grundy. 58 Hayden Lane, **Hucknall**

Nottinghamshire NG15 8BS.

WHY does the Guardian not turn the tables on Hamilton and bring a reciprocal action against him for libel? Surely then you would get to keep all the Government papers on the matter and also sort out Hamilton and his like. James Byrne. 3 Seaview,

Drimnin, Morvery, Argyil PA34 5XY.

N the current edition of Granton Lodge, 179 Granton Road, Neil Hamilton lists "silence" Edinburgh EH5 3RQ.

LEASE allow me to congratulate you on a magnificent week of achievement. of television might wish that he had followed his pursuit with greater assiduity. R A Seymour. Crediton Devon

> BERNARD Taple was stripped of his parliamen tary immunity from prosecu tion by his peers in the French parliament. Can the same not be done to Mr Neil Hamilton and if not, why not? Peter Williams. 146 High Street. Cambs CB4 4RX.

HE Neil Hamilton/lan Greer affair reminds me of Trollope, John Major's favourite novelist, and the advice given in his The Way We Live Now to the great swin-dler Melmotte: "First get into Parliament, and then spend a little money on the Conserva-tive side and there was no knowing what honours might not be achieved by money scattered with a liberal hand." Of course, that was oure fiction. Andrew Anderson.

On two consecutive days, provide adequate accommodollowing the European dation for gypsies in their court of Human Rights' judgment in the case of Mrs June Buckley; you published articles on gypsies (No resting place, October 1, and End of the road, October 2) which contain factual inaccuracies and suppositions.
The Criminal Justice and

Public Order Act 1994 does not contain a criminal offence of camping on land without planning permission. It contains provisions which allow local authorities to direct persons camped on land without the consent of the occupier to leave the land. If they do so as soon as practicable, no offence is committed. The powers cannot be used against gypsies camped on their own land without planning permission. The Department of the En-

vironment has advised local authorities that they should not evict needlessly and that they should aim to tolerate the presence of gypsies an council land for short periods if this is practicable.
It is not true that, under the Caravan Sites Act 1968 (now

repealed), local authorities could 'claim designated status if they had provided 15 caravan pitches across the county. This figure applied only to London boroughs and metropolitan districts and they could provide more if they felt it necessary; and compliance with their duty did not necessarily entitle them to designation. Other area and many provided well in excess of 15 pitches. A total of 330 official local-authority sites were available as at January 1, providing 5,387 family pitches, many of which can accommodate more than one

caravan. Neither is there evidence to suggest that "all official sites are full" or that "both official and unofficial sites are being closed down". Over 6,000 caravans were parked on local-authority sites in January 1996, the highest figure ever recorded on official sites. The Government remains committed to encouraging more gypsies to provide sites for themselves through the planning system, and gypsies win have submitted appeals against refusal of planning permission for private sites will continue to have those appeals heard fairly, and de-cided on their individual merits, as has always been the case. Some 3,561 caravans were counted on authorised privately owned sites in January 1996, again the highest fig-

ure ever recorded. The importance of the European Court case is that it reaffirms that gypsies have the same rights under the planning

else. Robert Jones MP. Minister of State for Planning Construction. Dept of the Environment. local authorities had a duty to | London SW1P 3EB.

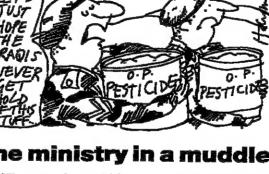
have decided not to publish because it did not offer any significant new information was on the role of school libraries and was quite unconnected with our inquiry into resources. Somehow you have conflated two different pieces of work (Literacy report supressed, October 5) and come up with a conspiracy theory. Jonathan Lawson. Head of Communications. Ofsted, Alexandra House, London WC2B 6SE

lished of four teachers murdered in the South East of Turkey (October 3) implies that they were killed by the PKK (Kurdistan Workers Party). The PKK have emphatically denied responsibility and have accused the Turkish state of murdering the teachers and blaming the PKK, in an attempt to deflect attention from Amnesty International's damning report on Turkey launched the same day. Ronahi Amed. **Kurdistan Information**

T is to be welcomed that Dr

c/o 44 Ainger Road, London NW3 3AT,

Kim Howells (Letters, October 5) wishes to debate the cultural policy of the British film industry. Yet with whom else can he carry on this debate but with those "chattering classes", a self-hating term for all those people who think, question, argue or engage with life? Otherwise I can only assume that Dr Howells is fantasising about becoming a President of a Britain that has been invaded, Independence Day-style, by "chattering classes", and that he alone is capable of repelling them. Just as he has repelled the encroachments of his own thinking past as a Hornsey Art School revolutionary, a member of the Communist Party. an NUM activist - a clearing of the decks we are seeing all too often from the new authoritarians in the Labour Party. Marc Karlin. Lusia Films,



The ministry in a muddle

troops were exposed to far more pesticides in the Gulf war than hitherto reported may indicate multiple blunders by the Ministry of De-fence (MoD admits Gulf blunder, October 5). Accounts of application methods range from aerial spraying of tents through to ground spraying by medical staff without protective equipment.

Even in the 1980s there were clear recommendations not to breathe in the spray mist of pesticides like itrothion which were used in the Gulf. Troops may have been well advised to put on "germ warfare" masks and clothes to protect themselves when spraying OP pes-ticides on or when being sprayed by Allied forces. OPs such as fenitrothion

and malathion were also well established by 1991 as pesticides which may become more toxic when combined with other chemicals. It will be important to establish what risk assessments the MoD carried out before the Gulf war to ensure the safest possible selection and application of pesticides.

Again, it was standard good occupational-hygiene practice in the 1980s and early 1990s to Nigel Linford. consider how chemicals like 12 Windermere Court, pesticides would react with East Drive, prescribed drugs. As many of | Brighton BN2 2BU.

OUR story that British | the armed forces at work in the Guif were apparently taking anti-nerve-gas drugs like pyridostigmine on instruction from the MoD, it should have automatically been asked how this drug would react with the pesticides. We now know that the inter-reaction was damaging. If the MoD did not know what the reaction was in 1991, personnel should not have been exposed to a potential risk without adequate information and protective equipment. (Dr) Andrew Watterson Director, Centre for

Occupational and

The Gateway, Leicester LEI 9BH.

Environmental Health.

De Montfort University,

VEN by MoD standards the story of the Pheonix project (Droning on, October 1) is highly embarrassing Landing problems? Perhaps the contractors (GEC-Marconi) should seek help from the model-maker featured in last month's edition of Aeroplane. This ex-pilot flies his own radio-controlled Swift fighter, powered by a tiny British-made turbojet, and concludes his display with a perfect landing.

Slaves to Tory penny-pinching

regarding chemes must surely be that they would be a form of slavery, (Shephard likely to ex-tend workfare programme, October 7). Under the entry for slavery, the Oxford Companion to Classical Literature explains that in ancient Athens there were three categories of slaves. There were slaves working as domestics, and there were slaves who

HE concern of many takings. Thirdly, there were regarding workfare public slaves who were made to carry out public works. The public slaves received enough money for food and clothing.

At best, those on voluntary workfare schemes would be regarded as effectively unemployed. At worst, if compulsory, workfare would create public slaves. Alexander Chablo. 23 Goulden Road, worked in commercial under- | Manchester M20 4ZF

Nigeria, still not forgotten

YOUR report that eight Commonwealth foreign ministers may visit Nigeria without guaranteed access to political prisoners and a cross-section of opinion is extremely disturbing (Nigeria faces abuses inquiry, Septem-

It is essential that the foreign ministers see the prison-ers on both humanitarian and political grounds. Many of them, such as Dr Beko Ransome-Kuti, the human-rights campaigner, are being kept in harsh conditions and their health is suffering. Some, like Chief Abiola, can claim a far more representative standing than General Abacha.

A Commonwealth which is trying to honour the Harare Declaration and create an association responsive to its peoples simply cannot participate in a guided tour by a military dictatorship. It is impossible to establish

is moving a millimetre towards its Harare commitments without talking freely to its opponent.

No democratically elected foreign minister in today's Commonwealth should be seen talking exclusively to the military. We hope that Malcolm Rifkind and his colleagues have some under standing on access which they are unable to announce. Richard Bourne.

Chair, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative Trustee Committee. 28 Russell Square. London WC1B 5DS.

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a daytime telephone number. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not

A Country Diary

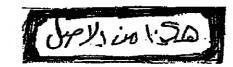
TAMAR VALLEY: Since silage at £8 to £12 per bale. Michaelmas rain and wind Some winter corn is already have knocked off most of the sparse apple crop and brought down yellowing leaves and brittle twigs. Rank bracken and mildewy blackberries lean out from hedges, almost meeting across nar-row lanes. Field gateways are already muddy, poached by the daily traffic of dairy cows, and farmers face a depressing and expensive autumn feeding cull cows waiting in the long queue for slaughter under the BSE eradication cheme. Farm rents, paid at Michaelmas, range from £40 to £50 an acre on mixed stock and arable farms, with dairy farmers paying £60 to £100 per acre, depending on the landlord's fixed equipment and amount of milk quota. Apart from forage maize, most crops are gathered in after a good harvest with yields of around 21/2 tons per acre of winter barley and 31/2 tons of winter wheat. Barns are full of silage, hay and straw; merchants delivering big bale straw and hay at around £35 sun.

and £80 per ton and wrapped

tilled and harvest festivals, suppers and produce auctions are in full swing. Between rain fronts, mellow sunshine enhances the ongoing burnishing of trees; the abundance of shiny black elderberries, purple sloes and dark red hawthorn berries; the startling brilliance of scarce rows of outdoor chrysanthe mums and clashing pink, yellow and orange dahlias. picked for the cut-flower market. Callington's Honey Fair is on such a bright morning, with scudding clouds casting blue shadows over Caradon Hill to the west. Honey bees cluster inside a glass demonstration section in the town hall and jars of honey, wax polish and honeycomb are sold amongst china, T-shirts, ironing board covers and fast food stalls. Rowland's fun fair has taken over the supermarket car-park and the golden gallopers dip and circle on barleysugar-twist poles, gleaming in autumn

- N. W.

VIRGINIA SPIERS



20 Goodge Place,

Diary

Matthew Norman

MEDIS could be the week the Referendum Party emerges as a profes-sional outfit. As if to drum this home, the press office sends a thick bundle of documents outlining the thoughts of new Referendum candidates - and splendid they are too. For example, Nicholas Westcott (Braintree) says: "The next general election will be a farce", whereas Christopher ate (Woking) insists: "The Referendum Party has only one objective—a national vote on who governs Britain". Conversely, Bristol's John Quintanilla posits that "under the Mass-tricht Treaty, Britain's sov-ereignty has been transferred to Brussels". Meanwhile, contesting the symbolic seat of Grantham, Marilyn Swain predicts: "the next general election will be a farce", while by way of variety Rutland's Rupert King argues that "the next general election will be a farce". Sam Lowlings in Tiverton is of the under the Maastricht Treaty, Britain's sover-

eignty..." school, but Douglas Hope (Sutton Cold-field) toes the "only one ob-

documents continue . . . and how refreshing to find par-

liamentary candidates who think for themselves.

ts for gypsies:

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jective" line. Thus do the

ROUBLE rears its head at Telegraph enforcer Boris the Jackal John-son, who in a conference sketch referred to the "totty meter", an imaginary Gei-ger counter that measures the sexiness of New Labour women. The piece ("Hot totty is on the agenda") carried pictures of three delegates, and the problem may lie in the dictionary defini-tion of "totty" as Victorian slang for a prostitutesomething quite capable of stimulating the juices of M'Learned Friends, Oddly, the Jackal wasn't in yesterday. "Sorry darlin', but the Guv'nor's gawn aht," said an unfamiliar voice reminis cent of the late Patricia Hayes. But where, we asked, is your Guv'nor? "It's Tuesday," said the voice. "So 'e'll be dahn the Camden Women's Collective, at the non-sexist inner-child workshop for reassessin' gender bias."

Conservative Associa tabled a motion for the conference's law and order debate. "This conference calls upon the judges to recognise the very poor opinion which the general public rightly has of them," it says, "and also to recognise the su-

OTING reports that victim of the sbakeup at the seven-day Express we called Sir Bernard Ingham to clinch his appointment as Diary Astrologer. "Oh no," said Bernie.
"Not again." Insisting that
he will be staying with the paper — his column will appear weekly, as usual, al-though on which day he is uncertain — Bernie was even-tempered at first. It was only when we asked whether he foresaw any career change in the stars that he exploded. "Oh bloody HELL, will you tell that BLOODY idiot" (me, I suspect) "that I've never LOOKED at the stars! I've spoken to him FOUR TIMES now and I keep telling him that Pve never LOOKED at the stars. I think the stars are bloody IDIOCY! Will you tell that IDIOT" (me again) "that he's barking up the wrong tree?" Why he per-sists in this absurd game, we have no idea . . . but we have no intention of giving up

YSTERY surrounds Doily Draper, who, planning a "sex, drugs 'n' politics" novel. "Ah." says Dolly coyly, "that's a ques-tion" (no arguing there) "and I haven't got an answer." Five minutes later the phone rings. "Suzanne Moore mentioned it a year ago in a little paper called the Guardian," says a now excitable Dolly. "I said then it was a cross between Brett **Reston Ellis and Jeffrey** Archer. I'm negotiating an advance now, and every time you mention it it goes up £500. Oh, and by the way," be adds, "I'm writing it under the name Dolly Draper." Well nothing to be ashamed of there. Not everyone prefers a nom de plume, do they?



Deliver us from the celebrity baby

Commentary

Catherine Bennett

HE MAKING of a baby is not, by all accounts, among the more challenging tasks known to man or woman. Production techniques have changed little over the years. Leaving aside all the complicated substitutes now being practised in fertil-ity clinics, experts assure me that standard DIY conception remains, in all essentials, much as it was in my parents' day: no qualifications or expe-

rience necessary.
Nor, to judge by the contents
of passing prams, or the pages
of Hello! magazine, is there anything exceptional or unto-ward about the contemporary product. Puce, somnolent, and short on conversation, today's infants seem, to the untutored eye, neither better nor worse in quality than their ancestors; hardly distinguishable one from another, whatever the parentage. Although their parents can presumably tell them apart, there seems little, their stated sex aside, to distinguish "Fursey", eighth child of Francis Rossi (of the carrieries three band.

who appears in the latest issue of Granta (a magazine which used to pride itself on manly adventure stories).
The only marvel is that the

conception and brief life-his-tory of such bables should now be judged, by so many editors and writers, to be a source of amusement and nov-elty. Despite all indications to the contrary, such as women with big, sticking-out stomachs, supermarkets crammed with young families, and schools overflowing with chil-dren, many new parents, especially male parents, persist in believing that their own tra-vails and achievements in the pregnancy and childbirth department are quite out of the common rum. Similarly, their newborns, which share with all other babies an absolute absence of singular achievements and abilities, are held up as paragons of infancy. For Brian Hall, in the cur-

rent child-dominated issue of Granta, his baby daughter Madeleine is not only a more ex-pert milk-sucker than other babies - "she seemed by far the most avid nurser" — but superior in almost every other respect: "Madeleine seemed an exceptionally happy baby when compared with her

Quo), pictured in this week's Births and Deaths now merits Hello! magazine, from Brian a full-length confession, Hall's daughter, "Madeleine", replete with cloacal detail. "I am in love with disposable nappies and awestruck by a nappies and awestruck by a special bin donated by a neighbour which turns them, once used, into a giant fragrant sausage," one father reported in last week's Sunday Telegraph, his wife having given birth, in what seemed to be uttarly unexceptional circumstances, to their third child.

their third child.

their third child.

These babies need not even be able to walk or talk. It suffices that they have recently been born — although a protracted or difficult entrance does make for livelier copy, particularly when related by the dazzled spectator. "It was amazing," Francis Rossi reports of Fursey's exit from his mother. "They just opened her up and took out the old her up and took out the old scar from her last Caesarian and the next thing I know I can see Fursey's head. In a matter of seconds he's in a towel and in my arms. I was like, 'Good thing this Caesar-ian'."

This is not, bowever, the type of birth favoured by the journalist Adam Nicolson, writing after the birth of his fifth child. For him, nothing but a home-birth will do. "I now think that unless a Caethe parentage. Although their parents can presumably tell when compared with her peers, almost never crying and their stated sex aside, to distinguish "Fursey", eighth child of Francis Rossi (of the geriatric thrash-band Status a brief announcement in light in a paddling pool: "This they transport the seems in committed an exceptionally happy baby when compared with her necessity," he writes sternly, "it is not the way to go." He relates, almost as proudly as if they dropped down dead after relates, almost as proudly as if he had done it himself, how his latest baby, Molly, saw the geriatric thrash-band Status a brief announcement in light in a paddling pool: "This they rarely have for women.

of course is how it should be, an unbroken transition from womb to life . . . "

ا هدا من الرحل

Annoyingly, for those who plan to use his pregnancy as a model. Nicolson did not dis-close whether ante-natal tests were allowed to disturb the unbroken transition. His editor, Dominic Lawson, is known to be furiously opposed to such procedures and to the terminations which some-times follow them. "This is nothing less than the statesponsored annihilation of via-ble, sentient foetuses," Law-son scolded, in a celebrated article on the birth of his daughter Domenica.

The fashion for such heroic and unsparing paternal testi-mony seems to have started when fine-natured, new-ish

There is obviously

no lack of fathers and would-be fathers eager to share their experiences

men tried to share - or rival - feminist attempts to demedicalise and idealise childbearing. From compulsory male attendance at ante-natal classes and the delivery room, it was but a short step to the treasurable Virago book Fa-therhood: Men Write About Fathering, in which an assortment of writerly types demon-strated that sensitivity could go hand-in-hand with sperm count. "Man, the business of parenting is something," con-cluded Noah Richler, strain-ing to express his commit-

Now that this former non-subject has been so heartily le-gitimised, there is obviously no lack of fathers and wouldbe fathers eager to share their experiences, from the costly gambles of the infertile, to the droll pregnancy diaries, the sad accounts of miscarriage, the gory labour-ward anec-dotes, the elation at the

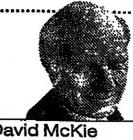
outcome. Whatever the individual experience, the message to the childless is never in doubt — if you haven't added another human being to the 5.8 billion already in existence, you haven't lived; nor, unless you are known to have done so, can you be sure of your place in the world. Women don't need to advertise this fact; men do.

In his fine pamphlet, Venus Envy, published in 1990, Adam Mars-Jones described a new style of displaying one's status as a father, typified by the novelists Martin Amis and Ian McEwan. "The persona of the McEwan. "The persona of the father is a liberating construction." Mars-Jones pointed out, "allowing for the safe expression of emotion in unprecedented quantities (the key word here is safe) — provided it is bounced off children and not expressed direct.
"Anthropologists use the

"Anthropologists use the word counade to denote patterns of male behaviour that seek to upstage or to appropriate potent moments in the lives of women," he observed: the women go into labour but the men cry out in stylised agony. To illustrate: Status Quo's Francis Rossi claims to have suffered from "sympa-thetic morning sickness".

Mars-Jones's brilliant diagnosis of a new, boastful breed of father has been richly confirmed over the last five years. The couvade column has turned into a staple of our magazines and newspapers. It just seems a shame that it's not yet formally known as such. At least, couldn't a warning "Baby on Board" sticker be slapped across the page?

Like Elvis, Maggie keeps on rocking



David McKie

LVIS Presley is still alive. The man they buried in 1977, it now transpires, wasn't Elvis, but a man known only as Scott, who when he had only a few months to live was hired by Presley and recon-structed to look like him. Scott's death allowed the singer to do a bunk with a secret girlfriend known only as Maria, and to settle down to what he had always wanted: a life of quiet obscu-rity. Far-fetched? Maybe. But it must be true, since I read it on page one of the People newspaper on Sunday.

That people believe such things is no surprise, espe-cially when you remember that Elvis was known as the King. We seem to have here a variant of a long-established phenomenon known as the Sleeping Emperor syndrome, where people so treasure a hero that they simply cannot bring themselves to accept his mortality. Sometimes the circumstances are much more mundane. There may be genuine doubt over whether some prominent figure is now alive or dead. Now and then after the

second world war someome or other would claim to have found Martin Bormann, who had to be tried in his absence at Nuremburg because he had fled in good time. But even in cases where death was respectably documented, doubts persisted. Hitler, some devotees claimed, had faked the deaths of himself and his mistress Eva Braun and was safely entrenched in South America. As the result of some political deal, Hess had been replaced in Spandau jail by an imposter, and permitted to end his life far away in tranquillity.
But these are minor-league

legends. The greatest cases of Sleeping Emperor syndrome imply not just escape and retirement but immortality or resurrection. Even in our own century, some people in the South-west still subscribed to the legend that Arthur, the 'once and future King', would one day return and recreate the greatness of Albion.

lieved the Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne was not dead, but sleeping. He was waiting, crowned and armed, in Odenberg (Hesse) or Un-

awaiting his moment to rescue Germany from its bondage and make it the greatest power in the world.

Most self-respecting countries
can boast at least one sleeping
emperor or equivalent. Portugal and Brazil share Sebastian Lithe Dense boas Fine tian I; the Danes have King Dan; the Irish, Finn MacCool Sometimes such legends have real political force. So anxious did the Norman kings become about the allure of the Arthur legend that his bones were dug up and exhibtited. The theme was always the same: that of happier, more self-respecting days, often before an invasion by foreigners. When Arthur, or Frederick, or Sebastian (or Elvis) was King, those were days of glory; a glory now dis-appeared, but one day, per-

growing through the stone,

haps, to return.

We pride ourselves on being less credulous now.

And yet this yearning in times of dolour and doubt for days of glorious certainty is by no means extinct, even among the sophisticated. That is part of what is wrong with the Tory party. They may nowadays — as they did yes-terday — moderate their enthusiasm when the queen of their glory days appears on a Conservative platform. And yet they cannot accept a leadership which no longer deals in her certainties, which like Major's seems mired so much of the time in temporising

and compromise. Like most legends, this one doesn't always accord with reality. In practice, Margaret Thatcher, when the occasion demanded, temporised and compromised. Were she still in office, it's by no means clear that she'd speak on Europe with the same unembellished certainty with which she does now.

in this context.
Thatcher for many besorted Tories was their Arthur, their Charle-magne, their Barbarossa. Their heads tell them she has gone, but their hearts cannot accept it. Occasionally, wistfully, in the writings of faithful knights like Paul Johnson, you see the dream that Maryou see the dream that Margaret — still the best of them
— might even now come
back. A Mori poll in last
week's Economist asked Tory
supporters who they would
like to see leading the party
after the election. John Major
(27 per cent) came top;
Michael Heseltine (16) was
second: Margaret Thatcher
was third, backed by 13 per
cent.

The great majority of the new Conservative Members in the coming Parliament, according to surveys, will be Thatcherites. Even after six tersburg, near Salzburg, and might well be roused by the mention of a crusade. His 13th-century successor Frederick Barbarossa hadn't died either, but sat at a stone table with six of his knights within a hill in Thuringia, his beard transferrites. Even after six transferrites, Even after six transferrite



Literary prizes should be celebrations of writers. Instead, says **Michael Holroyd**, we see their news value in terms only of scandal – as Harold Pinter has lately found

Unreserved judgment

special interest in it. Though people some-times describe me as a "prizewinning author", I am really a prize-giving author. I have judged the Whitbread Prize for fiction, biography and children's books; the Ackerley Prize for autobiography and living British writer, and in whose gift is a further significant. ley Prize for autobiography; and the Margaret Rhondda Award for women journalists. I have helped to hand out
Arts Council bursaries and Arts Council bursaries and the Margaret Rhondda England) which must go to an organisation that encourages younger writers or readers.

This is the only prize I travel scholarships on behalf of the Society of Authors. I am a founder travels of the Society of S am a founder trustee of the Authors' Foundation, which gives grants to writers in the middle of their books, and for more than six years I sat on the management committee British Academy and a memthe management committee that made the rules and appointed the judges of the Booker Prize. Also I have chaired the two David Cohen British Literature Prizes that have so far been awarded. Surely I must be by now the eminence grise of the literary-

prize world. Or do most it involves the whole body of authors go through this treadmill? In all this time I the Nobel Prize rather than have never been bribed or any other prize. And it is the bullied, never been handed a quality of the writers on the brown envelope or given a panel of judges both in Brit-subpoena. It is puzzling. Ac-cording to the novelist Kazuo novelists and non-fiction Ishiguro, I should have behaved more like the Rolling Stones — which talls you how long ago most of this was.

Several times in the past I tried to persuade Booker to give some money to the shortlottery in which, you hope, the better books get the most

tickets. The David Cohen British ingenious form of fairness. It In his acceptance speech at peal to the public for the make a general announce. Lytton Strache names of prize candidates as ment to the judges about this Bernard Shaw ingenious form of fairness. It

prize in the country. The total prize money is £40,000, three-quarters of which (donated a lifetime's achievement, to a living British writer, and in whose gift is a further £10,000 (put up by the Arts Council of England) which must go to an organisation that encourages younger writers or readers.

This is the only prize I know where members of the reading nublic and the spirit that the British Literature Prize was set up and is administered. The somewhat ludicrous business of giving examination marks to works of art is kept to a minimum. The aim of the judges has been to find a whole body of work — novels, poetry, if the context of literary prizes, was the significance of this 30-year-old news? The Diary of the London Evening Standard was able to tell us. Had not Joan Bakewell been a work — novels, poetry, if the context of literary prizes, was the significance of this 30-year-old news? The Diary of work — novels, poetry, if the London Evening Standard was able to tell us. Had not Joan Bakewell been a work — novels, poetry, if the context of literary prizes, was the significance of this 30-year-old news? The Diary of the London Evening Standard was able to tell us. Had not Joan Bakewell been a work — novels, poetry, if the context of literary prizes, was the significance of this 30-year-old news? The Diary of the London Evening Standard was able to tell us. British Academy and a mem-ber of the Academie Fran-caise, two professors of poet-ry at Oxford and two King Edward VII professors of English literature at Cam-bridge, a couple of Booker Prize winners and a Nobel Laureate. In fact, in so far as it involves the whole body of

writers - that commands the respect of the literary world. Why, then, is this prize so much less famous than the Booker, the Orange or the Whitbread? One reason is that it is a very young and listed authors - say, £1,000. I | non-exclusive prize. There always failed because, I was told, people liked its unfairness. In fact each prize is a for people to forget it. It is awarded every two years and there have been only two reci-pients: the novelist VS Naipaul in 1993; and the drama-tist Harold Pinter last year.

drama, non-fiction — that they most want to celebrate at a particular time. They do not have to put individual titles that were never written in competition with one another in the first place into a cother in the first place into a cother in the first place. They do make a shortlist, but they do not publish it — so there is no parade of losers, no activity at the betting shops, no un-gainly spectacle for us to

gloat over.

But what has been gained in respectability and decorum has apparently been lost in newsworthy scandals. backbiting, broken confi-dences, entertaining envy. No one has returned a cheque, criticised a sponsor. Even the sternest critics of the Arts Council of England, which administers the prize, have fallen silent. Some of them have even been heard mumbling a few indistinct syllables of praise.

The most, to my knowledge. that has arisen in the way of controversy has been a small broadside from Auberon should be boycotted because Council money — and also be-cause he has misread an ap-

E ARE now entering again the literary-prize season. I take a is also the richest literary serious writer has his own local terms of the prize world. The sleeping paul said: "At a certain stage an appeal for prize-money. Pretty feeble stuff. There is no real competition between writers since every seemed nothing else anyone led to a stream of other concentration." concerns, makes his own ex-plorations, and (with luck) finds his own audience."

against the prize — until now.

Last month the old news
was given to us, in glowing was given to us, in glowing headlines, that Harold Pinter

ture Prize last year? Indeed she had. The lesson was obvi-

HIS was desperate stuff, and it was given a wonderful prescription, apparently from an Arts Council spin doctor.
"We're anxiously scrutinising this year's judges,' says a source close to the panel."
reported the Evening Standard of the council standard of the c dard. I can imagine the delight of my successor as chairman, the poet and biog-rapher Andrew Motion. At last he has a piece of scandal with which to decorate the prize — and the best sort of scandal, too, which everyone instinctively knows cannot

on the shortlist of the British Literature Prize in 1995, Joan Bakewell came and told me broadside from Auberon about her affair with him in Waugh. He has proposed that the 1960s and asked whether the British Literature Prize she should resign as a judge. I replied that I thought she had his own Literary Review has been right to tell me, but that not been given any Arts there was no need for her to step down. It would have been ridiculous for me to

fessions and boasts around the table, but because the judges were all highly opin-ionated men and women on matters of literature, rightly proud of the stubbornness of their opinions, and to suggest that they could have been knocked off balance by such things would have been very properly resented.

I did. however, monitor

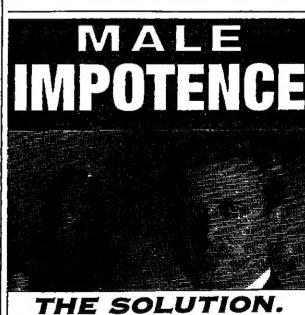
what Joan Bakewell said at our meetings with special care, as I told her I would. In

meeting very well. The cita-tion for Harold Pinter seemed to write itself. The word Pin-teresque had entered the language much as Kafkaesque had done, and had a similar international resonance. He was of course primarily a playwright, but his influence on others could be traced through the related media of radio, television and film. Many of us had grown up with his plays, and the atmo-sphere of menace, mystery, passion, fantasy and distur-bance conveyed by the hyp-notic rhythms of his style, affect anyone's integrity.

When it became apparent that Harold Pinter would be with its ominous pauses, had

become part of our world. We had a secret ballot so I do not know how Joan Bakewell voted. But I do know that the final decision in favour of Harold Pinter was overwhelming and made on merit.

Michael Holroyd has written biographies of Augustus John, Lytton Strachey and George



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Bullish in battle

ALF his former Hampstead and Highgate constituents would not have recognised Finsberg, who has died of a heart attack aged 70, in Stockholm. a happy man, unlike the combative and abrasive MP who had served the constitu-

Part of his happiness was personal. After the death of his first wife, Pamela, with away from me, he married an old friend. Yvonne Sarch.

Part of his happiness was his enjoyment as an activist within the Western European Union and Council of Europe, after he was sacked as a Minister by Mrs Thatcher in 1983. He found appreciation there. becoming President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, 1991-92. As he told fellow peers, after he was elevated to the Lords in 1992, he found that organisa-tion a wonderful vantage

Gene Nelson

Dancing in

Hollywood musical was dominated for

that their shadows were cast over several other very fine

dancers. Gene Nelson, who has died aged 76, was one of

gangling hoofers such as Dan Dailey, Ray Bolger and Buddy Ebsen, could be compared

with the more famous Gene. Both Kelly and Nelson were

superbly athletic and graceful.

However, while Kelly had the MGM musical department to

allow his inventive choreogra-

phy and dancing to flourish, Nelson was stuck in inconsequential and hackneyed

amiable, fair-haired Nelson, had neither Kelly's drive, per-

He was born Eugene Lean-

at running, swimming, foot-bail and ice skating. The last skill enabled him to leave

school at 16 — he was never

known as an intellectual giant

- and join Sonia Henie's tour-

While serving in the war-time Signal Corps, Nelson sang and danced in the mam-

moth Irving Berlin touring

troop show. This is the Army.

which entertained the armed

forces abroad. Back in New

York, he was spotted by a 20th

Century-Fox talent scout and

given a contract. But after

small roles in two films, the

studio let him go. Luckily for Nelson, who was

now married to Miriam Frank-

lin, choreographer and former

signed up by Warner Bros who

ing ice show.

the shadows

when his parents moved to California, he attended Santa Monica High School, shining at running, swimming

ALE dancing in the Hollywood musical cer in the Gene Kelly mould. Was dominated for so many years by him busy in a number of fluffy.

point from which to observe the historic changes in central and eastern Europe. Overseas he was able to display the charm he limited to friends and Tories at home.

Anyone living in the constit-

uency during his 22-year reign

was conscious that this marginal seat boasted an MP who enjoyed, above all, dismissing, insulting or pulverising almost any constituent who disagreed with him or was critical of any Conservative action. Anybody similarly critical of such actions in the columns of the local Harn and High weekly could be sure of a letter from Finsberg shooting them down in print. The late Sir Keith Joseph, who shared his politics and his religion, once referred to Finsberg as a "one-man battering ram". His combativeness was

as part of the old London Tory apparat, honed to belligerence in holding beachheads against the pre-war Morrisonian Labour Party.

'Let's-put-on-a-show-righthere" category in which he played "the best-friend-of-the-hero" roles. The hero was most often clean-cut baritone Gor-

don MacRae, and the heroine

was buttercup-haired singer Doris Day, who had as many

In Tea for Two (1960) thanks to Nelson and his wife, Doris

Day was able to dance for the

first time since a car accident blighted a promising dance

career at 15. For a routine in Lullaby of Broadway (1951), the Nelsons encouraged,

coaxed and tricked Day into accomplishing an extremely difficult duet à la Ginger and

Fred, which required spins

It was while making Three

Nelson portrayed simple cow-boy Will Parker in Oklahoma

(1955), shot in Todd-AO on

location in Arizona. His num-

ber, Everything's up to date in

Kansas City, vigorously danced and filmed at a rail-way depot and on top of a train, was the only one that

extended very far outside the

stage experience. But, as the

song goes, he had "gone about

as far as he could go" in the moribund genre of the movie

musical, and took up straight

acting and directing. Earlier, Nelson had been en-

couraged as a dramatic actor

in Crime Wave André de

Toth's brilliant film noir. As

an ex-con, desperately trying to stay on the right side of the

He was born in Hampstead the son of Monte Finsberg, who had won an MC and became a Handley Page aircraft inspector. Young Geoffrey went to the City of London School. He did his National Service as a "Bevin Boy" in the manpowerstarved coalmines, an arduous experience for a feline young man.
It was in the midst of this

that he joined the Young Conservatives at 20, in 1946. Within three years he was elected to Hampstead Borough Council, defeating Tony Greenwood. By 1954 he was national chairman of the Young Conservatives, and fought his first parliamentary seat, Islington East, the next year. But he seemed destined to remain a local government leader when he became Camden's opposition leader in

when Henry Brooke, the con-troversial and much criticised

from his Hampstead seat by Labour's Ben Whitaker in 1966, the high tide of Labour support. The contest was on for a fighter to retake this beachhead. It came down to two Jewish "bachelors", Leon Brittan and Geoffrey Fins-berg. Finsberg won under the slogan, "If being a bachelor is good enough for our leader [Edward Heath], it's good enough for me!". He campaigned on a bard-right programme, promising to cure the "plague" of strikes, to sell arms to South Africa and restore capital punishment for

He retook the seat by 474 votes in the 1970 election which brought Heath to power. He supported Heath on entry to Europe but was un-happy about his coldness toward Israel. He was elected

Thatcher became Leader, he was named spokesman for



'A one-man battering ram' . . . Finsberg

BROADWAY

nan for London in 1975. When Mrs Thatcher won power in 1979, he became Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment and, in 1981, he replaced Sir George Young in Health when Mrs Thatcher sacked him over his antitobacco crusade.

But Mrs Thatcher dropped him as a minister in 1983, apparently for being too in-flexible and inclined to kick the shins of civil servants.

services, the Ham and High wrote that "it would be nice for a change if we could be nice to Geoffrey Finsberg' but he made this impossible he refused to talk to constituents unhappy about the abolition of the ILEA, which he had

Andrew Roth

Lord Geottrey Firsberg, politi-

ancient past TUART PIGGOTT, who has died aged 86, having done nothing for Senwas one of this comtry's most eminent ar-

Master of the

ogists of the prehistoric age. As Abercromby Professor of prehistoric archaeology (1946-77) at Edinburgh University he was, together with Gra-hame Clark at Cambridge and Christopher Hawkes at Oxford, one of a triumvirate of prehistorians whose international stature cast a shadow over the next generation.
Piggott learned his craft as

Stuart Piggott

an apprentice with the lade magnate, Alexander Keiller. His first job was as an assistant at Reading Museum but in 1928 he joined the staff of the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments for

bury excavations. In 1938 his groundbreaking study of the early Bronze Age in Wessex was published in it be introduced the concept of the Wes-sex culture, with its long distance connections to the Baltic and Mycenean Greece.

With the war, Piggott was posted to India, where he was a lieutenant-colonel in charge of military air-photographic Asia. He continued his archae ological research which resulted in Some Ancient Cities of India (1946) and Prehistoric India (1950).

Returning to Oxford at the end of the war, his research on William Stukeley, the 18thcentury antiquary, was published as a monograph in 1950. By then he had already been appointed to the Abercromby chair by the University of

Edinburgh.
Piggott's "Scottish period" embraced a number of impor-Cairnpapple Hill near Edin-burgh and at Dalladies near Montrose, as well as his inter est in the excavations which his wife Peggy (C M Piggott) was directing in the Borders. Piggott's Scottish publications included his essay, Scotland before History (1958, revised 1982) and an edited volume, The Prehistoric Peoples of Scot-

land (1962). He served long terms on the Scotland, as a trustee of the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland, and as a commissioner of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. He had a key role in mounting a University Library exhibition, Three Centuries of Scottish Archaeology, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Abercromby Chair.

tish archaeology, Piggott con-tributed more to European, southern British and Scottish archaeology than most schol-ars. But he had no great affec-tion for, or affinity with Scot. land, and on retirement he returned to Challow in

Mancheste

cash deals hold a clarke

Piggott's survey of Neolista. Caltures of the British lities (1954), and his involvement in excavations at West Remest. Waylands Smithy and Stone-henge established him as the leading authority on the neotheless as a European prehis-torian that his reputation was principally secured.
His synthesis Ancient

mstant aversion to the North
Wales landscape and to "a
deadening atmosphere of dim
mediocrity" in the civil service in London.
He then became Keiller's assistant director at the Assa Druids in 1968, for the Ancien ed by his close personal friend, Glyn Daniel Daniel not only shared his archaeo logical interests, especially in the antiquarian history of archaeology, but also his paesion for wine and good food.

After retirement Piggott continued to research a long-time interest in wheeled webcles in antiquity, publishing The Earliest Wheeled Transport from the Atlantic to the Caspian Sea in 1983, with a sequel, Wagon, Charlot and Carriage in 1992.

He was a member of many academic bodies and held hop orary doctorates from Edin-burgh and Colombia Univesity, and in 1972 he was made CBE. Evidence of universal respect, and of no little affect tion, is revealed by the wide range of contributions to his two festschrift volumes, Sudies in Ancient Europe, 1968 and To Illustrate the Monuments. 1976, both of which were edited by his former pupils.

Dennis Harding



In for a dig . . . Piggott

Birthdays

Joe Ashton, Labour MP, 63; Carling Bassett-Seguso, tennis player, 29; Brian Blessed. actor, 59; Jackson Browne rock singer, 48; Sally Burgess, opera singer, 43; Paul Channon, former Conservative minister, 61; Sir Colin Corness, chairman, Redland, 65; Denzil Davies, Labour MP, 58; Peter Elliott, athlete, 34; John Entwistle, rock musician, 52; Lord Hailsham, CH, former Lord Chancellor 89; The Duke of Kent. 61: Don McCullin, photographer, 61; Thomas Malcomson, ambassador to Panama, 59; Prof. Peter Mansfield, physicist, 63; Marianne Neville-Rolfe, senior civil servant 52: Steve Ovett, athlete, 41; John Pilger, journalist and film-maker, 57; Andy Platt, rugby league footballer, 33; Michael

Saunders Watson, chairman

Heritage Education Trust, 62

Sir Stephen Sedley, High Court judge, 57; Donald Sin-den, actor, 73; Bill Tidy, cartoonist, 63.

Death Notices

TATLON, Nearcy on the Cooper 1985 ages. 57 years. Merryn was Chair of Trasfess of The Terrence Higgins Truet 1990-83. He leaves his partner of 9 years, Tony. Puseral at Goldene Green Crametorium on Thera-day 10th October at 11am. Flowers wit-come. Donations may be sent to Middiney Mission Hospital, Hackney Roed, London 2744.

E2 7NA.
WEGG-PROSSER - Charles ded pescrully at his family home in Herstord on 7th October aged 88. His passing will be mounted as a sad lose to Betty sad the rest of his loving lamily and many triseds but his life will continue to be celebrated by them. The cramation will be held in Herstord Piesse do not send flowers but rather send domations to the Marie Curie Carner Care whose nurses cared for him.

In Memoriam

COULTUREST. Deborsh, a tressured peri-ner, daughter and eleter.
"Higher still and higher From the Earth thou springes! Like a cloud of fire: The blue deep thou wingest, And singing still dost soer; and soering ever singes!".
(To a Skylerk - Shesky).

Engagements

SANDERS/SANDSTER, Armin & Andy, are delighted in announce their angagement. For anyone who wants the formal bits road maintains and desdy's bit in The ■To place your announcement talept 0171 713 4567, Fax 0171 713 4129.

her all the time and she keeps

Ken Murphy

In the files of fame

EN Murphy, who has died aged 74, played a part in guarding the Guardian's library for almost 40 years. A natural watchdog of part with cuttings was broken at intervals by sunny invita-tions to dine off his home-made gazpacho, surrounded by scis-sors, give and newsprint.

Apart from excelling as an amateur cook, Ken was a keen musician, interested in Berlioz and inclined to study the scores with an intensity which he also turned on his library. First once in passing was Barnado's, employed in Manchester, he became absorbed in the history race, with Irish and black of the city's cotton industry and built up a collection of special-ist files which astonished his new colleagues when much of the paper moved to London in phy in 1947 both as a bright

a last heist, he manages to

create some angst and sup-

press his habitual grin and

charm. However, the 34-year-

old Nelson's vanity was evi-

dent when he urged the direc-

tor to add a few words to the

law, but who gets embroiled in | cops description of him as "30

Murphy never discussed his origins, partly because he was a naturally private man and partly because they do not appear to have given him a happy start in life. London was part of between 1963 and 1979 and latthe story and so, he mentioned | terly as chief archivist.

South African parentage which lent him a striking appearance.

AP Wadsworth took to Muryoung man and as an opportu-nity to make a deliberate example of what would now be called positive discrimination. Ken stayed with the Guardian until

On the hoof . . . Gene Nelson gets in the mood with Doris Day in Lullaby of Broadway

years old, but looks younger".

None of his other non-musical

parts came anywhere near it.

His films as a director were

pretty modest affairs. Hand of

Death (1962) was a cheaple

horror movie in which scien-

tist John Agar turns into a

His devotion to cricket also made him many acquaint-ances. He was pleased to have the chance to combine his enthusiasm for the game with his professional skills in compiling figures for Wisden. Murphy married Sheila, who

ghastly, bloated monster. The

rest were quickie musicals all

made for B-picture producer

Sam Katzman, including two

of Elvis Presley's worst films.

Kissin Cousins (1964), in which

Elvis plays twin brothers, and

Harum Scarum (1965) an Ara-

worked with the paper as secre-tary to the former literary editor Bill Webb, but the marriage was later dissolved. Murphy retired to Forest Hill and an neighbours, warmed by regular discussions about another life-

rates and overcrowded jails.

recently to look after one of these while its owner went on holiday, he declined because he had been feeling unwell. The neighbour returned last week. noticed that Ken's lights were police, who broke in and found his body.

Gene Nelson, actor and dance

long enthusiasm, cats. Asked

born March 24, 1920; died

KOBAL COLLECTION

Wartin Walnwright

weeks in the studio.

Kan Murphy, librarian, born Lon-don July 7, 1922; died late Septem-

Jackdaw

Weekend break

SALON de Fleurus' walls are covered with paintings by Cezanne, Picasso, and Matisse. There is French music playing quietly in the backblack-clad strangers mill about, chatting, looking at the naintines, behaving as if they are visiting a museum. However, this is an apartment in New York's Soho district, and the paintings are all fakes. Salon de Fleurus is a replica of the writer Gertrude Stein's 1920s Paris apartment, where Hemingway, Fitzgerald, and Picasso met to drink and gossip. Nothing is for sale, you can't buy drinks or coffee, no

bands play, and no poets read. What is it? No one will say. The host won't tell you Instead he talks about anonymity - that in medieval times it was a state of mind. and here at the Salon it is a deliberate decision by the "authors". The Salon, it ems, is about questions. If you want answers call 212-334-4962 for reservations. More US fads and follies in

Christmas cuts

THE recent announcement that Donner and Blitzen have elected to take the early reindeer retirement package has triggered a good deal of concern about whether they will be replaced, and about other restructuring decisions at the North Pole. Streamlining was appropriate in view of the reality that the North Pole no longer dominates the season's gift distribution business. Home shopping channels and mail order catalogues have diminished Santa's market share. Effective immediately, the following

take place in the "Twelve Days of Christmas" subsidiary: The partridge will be retained, but the pear tree never turned out to be the cash crop forecasted. It will be replaced by a plastic hanging plant. The two turtle doves represent a redundancy that is simply not cost effective. In addition, their romance during working hours could not be condoned. The positions are therefore

eliminated. (The three French hens will remain intact.) The four calling birds were replaced by an automated voice mail system, with a call waiting option. The five golden rings have been put on hold by the Board of Directors. Maintaining a portfolio based on one commodity could have negative implications for institutional investors. The six geese-a-laying constitutes a luxury which can no longer be afforded. Three geese will be let go, and an upgrading in the selection procedure by personnel will assure management that from now on every

goose it gets will be a good

in keeping with consumer trends is starting Christmas one. The seven swans-a ewels as of today. number chosen in better times. Mechanical swans are on order. As you know, the **Guilt trip** eight maids-a-milking concept has been under heavy **BECAUSE** of rising crime scrutiny by the EEC. A male-

judges are looking for new ways to make the punishment female balance in the workforce is being sought. Nine ladies dancing has always fit the crime. Just ask been an odd number. This Michael Potter, a 19 year old, function will be phased out as who was convicted of stealing \$470 from an Eau Claire, Wis. Handy Lube. The judge ofthese individuals grow older and can no longer do the steps. Ten Lords a leaping is fered to cut his jail sentence overkill. The high cost of by two-thirds if he would Lords plus the expense of inreturn to the scene of the crime and wear an admission ternational air travel prompted the Compensation Committee to suggest replacof guilt (a large body board saying "I am a thief") for a humbling eight hours. Potter ing this group with ten out-of donned his scarlet letters. work congressmen. Eleven US alternatives to taking away pipers piping and twelve drummers drumming is a simple case of the band getdriving licences. In Civilization.

Anti millennium

HATHAWAY examines the prospects for the next three or four years, and suggests that the Antichrist, "may well be revealed in Russia". His most specific speculation relates to the possible identity of the

Antichrist. Quoting the Gog and Magog prophecies from Ezekiel 38 and 39, where a massive army attacks Israel from the north as part of the "End Times scenario". He says that, "It would appear there is one man alive today who could fit and fulfil this prophecy "Vladimir Volfo-vitch Zhirinovsky," and points out that "Josephus, amongst other ancient histo-



Khazakstan - where Vladimir Zhirinovsky was born on 25 April 1946. Zhirinovsky is running for Russian president in 1996 elections." Giving us something specific to look out for — something that really could fit in with a biblical prophecy — Zhirinovsky's book, Last Dash to the South apparently says: "Our army will perform this task . . . the last dash to the south and Russia's outlet to the shores of the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea are really the task of saving the Russian nation ... This is not just my whim. It is Russia's destiny. It

More millennium modness in the Fortean Times book Millennium.

Care & share

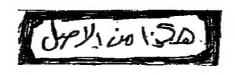
IN AN attempt to work out if major corporations actually care about us as people, the following message was sent to "customer support" desks. Hello, sorry to bother you but you are support and I have a problem however strange it is. There's this girl that I really like and I think about

giving me strange signals, one minute she likes me the next she doesn't. For example, I was leaving the floor at the same time as her and she was rushing away really fast and I was also going fast but she just kept going, so I. slowed down and decided that she isn't interested and then down the next floor she stops and walks with me. I feel like killing myself. Frederick. P.S This is sent in the strictest of confidence. Only reply from Internet Service Provider UUNET PIPEX: Thank you for the message, unfortunately I feel I am not the best person to answer these concerns you have, but don't worry you can contact the Samaritans online. Thankyou Pipex for caring. Found at http://www.gorman

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London ECIR 3ER.

org.uk/care.html Henry Ritson.

Emily Sheffield



ting too big. A substitution

with a string quartet, a cut-

back on new music and no

uniforms will produce sav-

stantial reduction in assorted

ines. We can expect a sub-

people, fowl, animals and

Christmas greetings from the Marxism listserver. Jackdow

other expenses.

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Financial Editor: Alex Brummer Telephone: 0171-239-9610 Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

'Cash back' deals put on hold after Clarke acts

ORE than £800 million worth of "cash back" deals
were put on hold
last night as the City grappled
with the implications of Chancellor Kenneth Clarke's till now enjoyed the same surprise move to scrap tax perks as big City firms. surprise move to scrap tax relief on companies handing back surplus money and shares to stock market inves-

The move, which is seen to have massive implications for the entire financial services industry, immediately saw Reuters shelve its 2613 million plan to distribute special

Yorkshire Electricity warned that similar proposals worth £120 million were on hold and Allders, the department store, admitted that its £50 million share buyback scheme was now in doubt.

Leading accountants warned that the move "drives a coach and horses" through a tax break which has been widely exploited for every-thing from contested takeover bids to attempts to bolster investor support.

up in 1972, allows City firms to recoup the 25 per cent tax on any share or cash dividend money which has already been paid by the company involved. The result is to increase the corresponding value of the offered payout.

so many companies have been exploiting the loophole to increase the attraction of cash handouts and free shares, that the value of such transactions over the next 12 | credit. pected £1.5 billion,

But leading accountants calate.

But leading accountants calate.

"I therefore propose to warned that there could be a "I therefore propose to warned that there could be a "I therefore propose to warned that there could be a "I therefore propose to warned that there could be a "I therefore propose to warned that there could be a "I therefore propose to warned that there could be a "I therefore propose to warned that there could be a "I therefore propose to warned that there could be a "I therefore propose to warned the could be a "I therefore propose to warned that there could be a "I therefore propose to warned that there could be a "I therefore propose to warned that there could be a "I therefore propose to warned that there could be a "I therefore propose to warned that there could be a "I therefore propose to warned that there could be a "I therefore propose to warned that there could be a "I therefore propose to warned that there could be a "I therefore propose to warned the could be a "I therefore propose to warn condemning the move as 'overkill'. Although the clampdown is aimed at hig City firms, small investors who hold personal squity today."

plans (Peps) or life assurance and pension policies could be affected, according to Derek Jenkins, a tax partner with accountants Coopers & Lybrand.

Accountants warn that investors in Peps could be af-fected because the structure of their shareholding has up

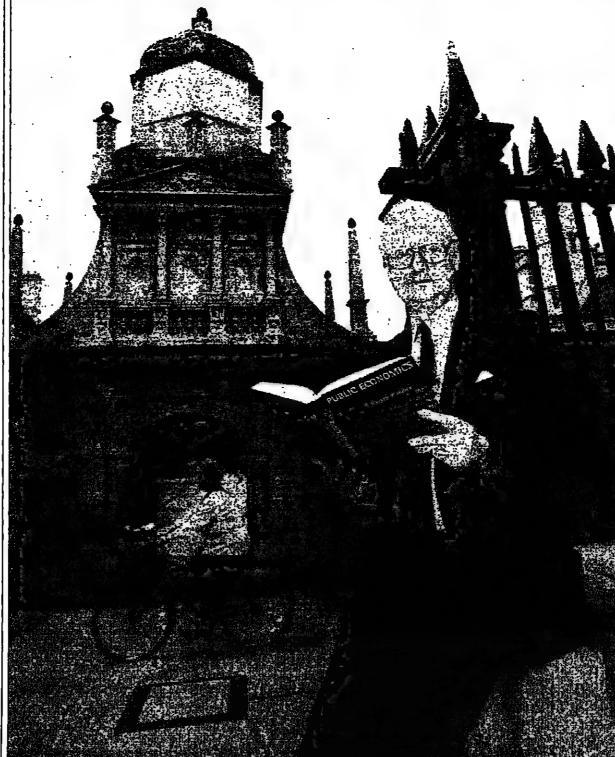
Roger Murray, a partner at Ernst & Young, said: "The timing of this move is clearly linked to Reuters' special dividend. Ordinary share buy-backs which do not specifically target tax-exempt shareholders should have been left outside the net His been left outside the net. It is lion plan to distribute special dividends which was due to be approved by shareholders its outside the UK which cannot offset all their advance corporation tax."

The Prudential, one of the City's biggest pension managunder its coptrol, last night said it was "not surprised" by the move. "The only surprise Is the timing," it said.
The company tried to down-play the implications of the

move, saying it will have only a "slight impact" in the context of a diversified portfolio. But share prices of compa-nies involved in "surplus cash deals" fell. Reuters slumped 20.5p to 756.5p, Zeneca was 9p down at 1651p and British Airways was 9p

lighter at 592p. Standard Chartered lost 15p at 1440p. Outlining the proposals, Mr Clarke said: "We have recently seen companies buying their own shares or pay-ing special dividends in such a way that the proceeds end hands of those who are en-titled to payment of a tax

months had been expected to rise from £1 billion to an exchequer, and if action is not tuken soon that cost would ex-



Nobel prize for imperfect information

on economist's work that backs Blairism'

ABRITISH academic has won the Nobel economics prize for his work showing that some psople know much more than other people — and that such "asymmetric information" distorts market activity.

James Mirriees, Professor of Political Economy at the University of Cambridge. shares the prize of £750,000, awarded yesterday, with Ca-nadian economist William

than Kenneth Clarke in as much as there is a difference" -- the two man challenged the conventional aconomic assumption that perfect information is shared by buyers and sellers in any market. The most famous example developed by Prof Mirrless, aged 60, is the construction of

a tax system, when workers know more about the impact of taxes on incentives and productivity than the Prof Mirriees said yester-

day: "We know how smart we are, and how hard we are working. The government can't know that."

7

Number of Nobel Economics prize

1975

knows about the late night

Other examples of asymmetric information include parties next door and declines "So the state, or community to tell the buyer, or when an employer knows less about step in." In a series of papers — house sales, where the seller

think-tank London Economics, who studied under Prof Mirriees, reckons his work backs the new political economy of stakeholding. I would say it underpins

Blairism — although I'm not sure Mirriees himself would go that far," he said.

Prof Kay said the work on asymmetric information explained the absence of insur-ance markets in a number of areas, such as divorce or un-employment. "Because we know more about the chances of losing a job or finishing a marriage, there can be no effective market," he said.
"So the state, or community

> ment businesses such as pen-sion funds and Peps, under which the public has bene-fited from the break. The pen-sion funds, who hated the 1993 clampdown on tax credits, will plainly fear that the closure of the tax credit on

City raided by the Chancellor



Edited by Alex Brummer

Chancellor Kenneth Clarke's decision to close the tax loophole that has made share buybacks so popular ought to send an upbeat signal to delegates.

With the November Budget fast approaching, Mr Clarke is scouting around for new in-come sources of which the tax credit on special dividends could just be the first. If, for instance, he were to follow the precedent set in the March 1993 Budget, when he reduced the corporation tax credit from 25 per cent to 20 per cent, he might start to raise some real cash to fund the income tax cuts back-

benchers are yearning for. But the political consequences of the Chancellor's decision could be far more complex. Its first victim is Reuters, which has been forced to reconsider its £613 million share buyback scheme. The banks, which have embarked on similar exercises, will find themselves in the same position.

There has been widespread speculation that another group of companies — the electricity generators, distributors and considering share buybacks no doubt with the special divi-

funds and Peps.

The result of Mr Clarke's action will be to leave thes companies richer in cash terms than they otherwise would have been. They will then have several choices, including the possibility of investing the surplus cash in new businesses or plant or equipment — never a quick

John Kay, the chairman of ting on the cash is that one Chancellor, having made it more difficult to distribute to shareholders, may be succeeded by another, Gordon Brown, determined to harvest through a windfall profits tax
— an unintended irony.
Companies like British

Steel, which is sitting on some \$700 million of cash, may, before the Chancellor's decision, sought to please shareholders by using a special dividend to reward them. Now they are more likely to spend it on a major investment project in the Far East. In that sense Mr Clarke's move could be regarded as long-termist in that it encourages investment as opposed to distribution. Where the loophole closure

is really going to hurt is in the tax free, fund manage-

distributions signals worse to come in November, with perthe corporation tax credit to 15 per cent, in line with other allowances such as the mar-

anowances such as the mar-ried couples and Miras.

If the Treasury has started a campaign to improve the tax yield from the corporate sector, then Mr Clarke is heading towards a Budget which will have severe critics. But, unlike Tony Blair, he may well feel be can afford to alienate City opinion.

Mutual reality

N A period when other building societies felt com-pelled — without any real necessity — to follow the Hallfax route and convert to bank status, the Bradford & Bingley has shown the courage to become the champion of mutuality.
While the converting societ

ies are sitting on their hands, offering investors the poorest rates of return in decades, those like the B&B, Nationwide and Portman have chosen to reward their members with better returns, good value mortgages and bonus

However, in the effort to build market share around the mutual sector and retain the confidence of members, some loss of profitability has been accepted. In the last financial year the B&B's loy-alty scheme meant £1 million of lost profits a month.

That was fine while the con-verting societies were focused on internal change ready for stock market quotations, but once the Halifax, Alliance & Leicester, Woolwich and others come down the slipway in the spring, the mutuals can expect to feel the hot breath of competition on the collar.

It is extremely sensible that the society has chosen to an-ticipate changes in the marthe the changes in the marketplace by modernising. There has been a great deal of focus on the prospect of up to 1,000 job losses, although that is a figure which is probably too high. Certainly, the socious of the complex of the complex of the change of ety's employees deserve greater clarity on this.

However, the B&B also has best it can, to proceed by con-sent rather than sacking people. The point is it has very little choice. The B&B is now competing directly with PLCs which will be disci-plined by the stock market. As a mutual, the B&B has to apply market disciplines to it-self, not an easy concept. The new-look B&B emerges

from a series of studies set in Chistopher Rodrigues, to mark his first 100 days at the top. Essentially there will be three divisions: the first purloans and savings interests; the second, the B&B's financial services division, where the society leads the way be-cause of its independent status; and the third pursuing its presence in the commercial sector through lending to housing associations.

By focusing on what is im-

portant, the B&B is demon-strating that mutuality can work, even in the 1990s. And it may yet cause some of those societies which bolted to

4,000 new jobs for Scotland

Secret PIA pensions report

says redress held to £24m

Erland Clouston

Death Notices

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Engagement

COTLAND savoured the news of a £24 billion inward investment yesterday as Labour and Conservatives squabbled over the political implications of a Korean computing group's de-cision to put down roots in

Hyundai Electronics Europe is to build two state of the art semiconductor plants on a 150-acre site at Dunfermline, the burial place of Scotland's bestknown king, Robert the Bruce. What is calculated to be Europe's most lucrative over-seas import will eventually create up to 4,000 jobs for an area devastated by defence cuts and the decline of traditional industries.
At the Conservative Party

conference, Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, who visited Korea in May, warned that Labour's economic "Horsemen of the Apocalypse" would jeop-ardise similar bonanzas. "If we had a tertan tax it would cer direct jobs has been rumoured.

surance salesmen, according

to a confidential report drawn

up by the Personal Invest-

ment Authority, the financial

services watchdog, writes

PIA directors met yester-

day to discuss how they could

speed up the efforts of life in-

cial advisers to pay redress to

victims of the scandal which may cost the industry

£2 billion in compensation —

Richard Miles.

tainly give Wales and the other parts of the United Kingdom an edge," he said. "And if the United Kingdom was lumbered with the costs of the Social Chapter and the minimum wage, that would certainly make us less competitive." Gordon Brown, shadow chancellor and MP for Dun-

fermline East, however, inter-preted Hyundai's selection of the UK as a production base for its new generation of Dy-namic Random Access Memory semiconductors as a plug for dynamic New Labour. "This company has come to Scotland in the full knowledge that there is a strong possibil-

ity of there being a Labour government," he said. Mr H.K. Yoo, managing di-rector of HEE, tactfully gave labour force and "cost-competitive operating environment".

sions, but a report presented

to the PIA board says only

500,000 cases have been

The report, parts of which

show that only 3,000 victims

have been offered redress

identified.

the credit to Fife's skilled Though Locate in Scotland, the Scottish Office's inward investment arm, would not disclose its incentive package, £30,000 for each of the 2,000

B&B chief's redundancy pledge

Reorganisation will cost hundreds of jobs at building society . . .

■ UNDREDS of jobs are to go at Bradford & Bingley, Britain's fifth largest building society, in a cost-cutting drive over the

next 18 months.

Bradford & Bingley yesterday played down reports that up to 1,000 jobs would be lost, but a spokesman declined to say how many were at risk. He said the building society reorganisation to bring its op- joined the society four next year and a half: the soci- of the lending market.

had no plans for compulsory redundancies but would offer voluntary redundancy and early retirement.

wastage". About 15 per cent of the workforce leave each year out of a total of 4,000, half of whom work in the society's

told them it was "too early to everything we can to mini-mise the need for compulsory redundancies. As far as is practically possible, we will freeze recruitment and use Further reductions would be achieved through "natural

agency staff to fill interim vacancies."

erating costs in line with months ago. In a document ety, its independent financial other building societies. It entitled New Foundations, he services arm and a commercial lending division, which be precise about the exact future shape of the society".

He added: "We will do housing associations.

With £16 billion of assets under management, it will be-come the second largest society after Nationwide next year when the Halifax, Wool wich and Alliance & Leicester convert to banks. Its policy of Staff were told of the job cuts by the chief executive. Christopher Rodrigues, who into three divisions over the lelped it to increase its share

. . but will lead to 500 new posts at luxury chocolate company

£22m Thorntons revamp to create 150 outlets

Roger Cowe

ONLY £24 million has so far been paid in redress to people hoodwinked into leaving a company pension scheme by unscrupulous inscheme by unscrupulous inscheme by unscrupulous inscheme to personal pensions but a report report of the personal pensions but a report report of the personal pensions but a report report report of the pension schemes to personal pensions but a report re UXURY chocolate company Thorntons yester-day warned that it would cost 222 million over the next two years to turn round its ailing business. But planned the PIA may publish later in the year, is also believed to expansion of the UK shop chain to 359 outlets from 206 will create more than 500 jobs over the next two years.

surance companies and finan- totalling £27 million, of which The sum, which will cover 524 million has been paid. One PIA director, who asked not to be named, said withdrawal from France and Belgium, a complete shake-up of the shop chain and a reor-ganisation of manufacturing. the delays were not of the as the review of mis-sold per- PIA's making. He said: "The wiped out last year's profits, sonal pensions drags on into a PIA is looking at ways of getcity watchdogs originally track." leaving a pre-tax loss of al-

Chairman John Thornton | said the company had failed to focus on retailing in the past few years. As a result, the product range had not been updated and many of its shops were too small and in poor locations, which meant roffered. The first fruits of new pro-

duct development were seen in figures for last year, published yesterday. New gift products boosted Christmas and Easter sales, while the early weeks of the current year saw sales of non-gift products soar by almost a mriting off capital spending fifth, aided also by helpful weather.

Writing off capital spending fifth, aided also by helpful be paid for by higher sales.

The gains left sales slightly ahead of last year, at £97 mil-lion, but operating profit before exceptional costs slipped from £11 million to £8 million. Thorntons has concluded that the retail chain needed to be completely overhauled. that day-to-day sales had Shops will be bigger while the number will be increased by a third. Total sales space will increase by 60 per cent by the time the shake-up is com-

pleted in the year 2000. The strategy also requires a significant increase in marketing, higher capital investment and a shorter period for



Watchdog may act on nuclear safety

Mmon Beavis and Paul Brown

HE official watchdog on nuclear safety warned last night that it could be forced to take action if plans by British Energy to axe more than 1,300 jobs compromise safety in the newly privatised industry. The Nuclear Industry in-

spectorate said it would study BE's announcement and would step in if safety was jeopardised. BE confirmed yesterday that it would be making a statement on job cuts today. It is expected to announce that nearly 25 per cent of the company's 6,500-strong staff will be made redundant, with more than half the cuts among scientific by pushing the shares up 2p and technical staff at the to 107.5p - 2.5p above their English headquarters.

to sustain the company's prospectus pledges on dividends.
An NII spokesman said: "We are aware that there is to be an announcement about job cuts but we do not know the details. When we do we will be assessing the safety implications. "If there are any we will of course step in and take the

Unions attacked the job

cuts last night as a "sop" to

shareholders and a clear bid

In the run-up to BE's disastrous float this summer inspectors expressed worries that the company's technical expertise had been eroded and was in danger of becom-

ing too slender. The City reacted to news of an imminent announcement 105p partly-paid issue price.

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS

Germany 2.3170 Greece 387.50 Austria 16.28 Belgium 47.65 Canada 2.0835 Hong Kong 11.78 India 55.78 Ireland 0.9475 Cyprus 0.7050 Denmark 8.91 Finland 7.06 tersel 4.98

New Zewand 2.19 Norway 9.89 Portugal 235.30 Saudi Arabia 5.82 USA 1.5270

Singapore 2.15 South Africa 6.89 Spain 194.70 Sweden 10.17 Switzerland 1.89 Turkey 139,850

Savoy keeps an eye on past

director of the Savoy Hotel group, shows off the newly refurbished front hall of the hotel. The restoration by David Linley and Nina Campbell, is part of a £62 million redesign programme covering all five of the group's UK properties. Also due for a facelift are Claridge's, the Berkeley,

which is to open a new sports club, and the Connaught. At the Savoy, the rooms

and suites have been also refurbished, new air conditioning fitted, and the famous American Bar Mr Pajares, whose

actions have provoked criticism from some Savoy tra-ditionalists, said the programme was being handled with "the utmost care". The archives had been raided for original drawings and designs to ensure the work was sympathetic.



Demerger is designed to take American Brands out of the increasingly litigious US tobacco market

Gallaher set for £2.5bn stock market flotation

ALLAHER, the UK's largest tobacco company with brands including Silk Cut and Benson & Hedges, is to be de-merged from its US parent, American Brands, and listed separately on the Stock Exchange with a value of around 52.5 billion.

The move is subject to agreement with the American tax authorities as well as shareholder approval. Gal-laher has a 40 per cent share of the £10 billion UK tobacco

The demerger will further change the face of the rapidly evolving UK tobacco industry. Only last week the former

Imperial Tobacco, was listed on the stock market. Its market share is only slightly smaller than that of Gallaher. imperial Tobacco has a market capitalisation £2.1 billion.

The move by American

Brands comes against the background of an increasingly litigious climate in the US and growing consumer hostility there over the link between smoking and cancer. American Brands acknow leged that the effects of this was one of the driving forces behind its decision. "Since Gallaher will be recognised more clearly as a UK/European tobacco manufacturer operating in an environment significantly different from

that operation should be more apparent," the company said. Gallaber's brands also include Old Holborn tobacco and Hamlet cigars. More than 60 per cent of its sales are in the UK, but its European sales are on the increase. It now sells three billion cigarettes in the former Soviet Union and is planning to start

manufacturing there soon. A Gallaher spokesman sald the demerger was "great news" for the company and its 3,700 employees in Wey-bridge, Manchester, Cardiff. Crewe and Northern Ireland. Gallaher's chairman and chief executive, Peter Wilson, said he was excited by the op-

Hanson tobacco subsidiary, the current US tobacco litiga-Imperial Tobacco, was listed tion and regulatory environ-on the stock market. Its mar-ment, the value inherent in deal for shareholders. If the demerger is approved, probably next year, American Brands will be renamed Fortune Brands. It has annual sales of \$4.6 billion (£2.9 billion) and owns hardware, distilled spirits, golf and office equipment brands. It will cease to have tobacco interests after the demerger

BAT, the other main UK company with tobacco interests, does not actually sell tobacco in the UK. Jonathan Fell, at brokers Merril Lynch said there was some specula-tion that BAT may bid for either Imperial Tobacco or Gallaher in the next few months in order to establish a UK tobacco operation.

gramme for the poor.

knew about smokingcancer link

BAT, the tobacco and in-surance conglomerate, yesterday fiercely denied that a newly-uncarthed internal memorandum suggested that the company knew of the link between smoking and cancer as far

in 1980

The 14-page memorandum, written in 1980, has been filed by state prosecutors in the US state of Minnesota, which is one of 17 states seeking to recover Medicaid costs incurred while treating tobaccorelated illnesses. Medicaid is a government-funded health insurance pro-

Minnesota's attorney eneral. Hubert Humphrey III, said the memo revealed that executives from BAT had "considered finally

BAT denies it he added that they "obviously chose instead to perpetuate their deadly cover-

The memo says:"If the predictions of the US lawyers are correct we could lose a cancer suit, and this could lead to a new indus try' in America and else-where, that of suing tobacco companies, costing a lot of money."

A BAT spokesman dismissed the memo as con-taining nothing new. "It sounds to me like another document taken out of context and from which selective quotes have been made," he said.

He acknowledged that the debate over the possible effects of smoking had indeed started by 1980, but stressed: "We've always said that smoking was a risk factor in certain diseases but that the precise mechanism that causes those diseases is not fully imperstood.

The US tobacco industry is facing a barrage of litiga-tion over the link between smoking and various respi-ratory diseases. Last month BAT was given a boost

News in brief

Call for full access to **EMU** payment system

vesterday sought to disarm German opposition to banks from countries which do not sign up for monetary union gaining access to the post-EMU cross-border payments systems.

Although Mr Davies did not mention Germany by name, he sought to play down fears expressed by senior Bundesbank officials in recent weeks that allowing banks outside EMU full access to the Target payment system would hinder the conduct of mone

Speaking to the British Computer Society last night Mr Davles said that Target would provide a "worthwhile improvement" to the single European market system but only if all banks had access to it during the trading day.

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The German central bank is worried that allowing non-euro banks access to the system could lead to the creation of euro-denominated credits outside the control of the European central

"Our view is that this is mistaken and that it is perfectly possible to prevent any tangible spill-over from the settlement system by imposing penalties on overnight borrowing," said Mr Davies.
"In other words, banks will need to settle up their positions at the end of the day, and pay heavily if they don't, which will surely encourage them to do so." — Mark Milner

Restructuring cuts Lucas jobs

THE Lucas car parts and aerospace group revealed that restructuring and cost-cutting had removed another 1,300 jobs in the year to July and a further 250 since then, leaving a 46,500 workforce. Lucas's last results as a separate company before merger with the American Varity group showed a 41 per cent rise in profits to £191.2 million in the year to July before one off items. The car parts group said its margins had widened and its aerospace business had rebounded. Group chairman Sir Brian Pearse, said the £3.2 billion mer

was going "extremely smoothly" but gave no details of the company's proposed five year business plan, which is expected to involve more heavy cost-cutting and job losses. Some analysts believe that cost savings of more than £200 million are being sought over the next two years. - Tony May

Share raid on Blenheim

VNU, a Dutch publishing company, snapped up a 15 per cent stake in the Blenheim exhibitions group for \$39 million in a dawn raid on the stock market yesterday. VNU said it was making a "longterm investment" and strongly denied that its raid, at 500p a share, was a "spoiling tactic" to block potential bids from other companies. United News & Media and Reed International have been reported as making offers for Blenheim. Analysts said VNU had effectively locked out any other bid approach.

A spokeswoman for Blenheim declined to say if the company had any plans to meet the VNU management or if talks had occurred ahead of the raid. The Blenheim board owns about a quarter of the company's stock and Compagnie Generale des Esm

VNU focuses on consumer publishing, regional press, educa-tional publications, and trade and professional titles with limited exhibition interests.

Tipplers dodge £573m in tax

THE EXCHEQUER is losing £573 million a year in excise and VAT because of consumers crossing the Channel to avoid British excise on alcohol, according to the Wine and Spirit Association. It said the average car brought over 80 bottles, a jump of 66 per cent on last year, while the average number of spirits bottles was 6.7. Only 1 in 50 vehicles return from the Continent without any alcohol against one in four in 1993.

Meanwhile, the association said the proportion of the market paying UK excise duty had slipped from 89.8 per cent in 1993 to 74.7 per cent this year, with the average vehicle on the Dover-Calais

Vodafone chief steps down

SIR Gerry Whent is to step down at the end of the year as chief executive of Vodafone Group, a post he has held since the company was formed 13 years ago. He will remain on the board in the confessing the truth about when a court in Florida newly created post of deputy chairman. Chris Gent, managing tobacco and health for the reversed the recent flood of director of the main Vodafone mobile phone subsidiary, will take sake of their "integrity"... anti-tobacco judgments.

Reds' managers prove shy and play down season's 'goal tally'

Outlook/Manchester United is keeping a low profile about its prospects despite winning the Double. lan King reports

T IS highly unusual for companies at results briefings to play down prospects for the year, but then again. Manchester United is

no ordinary company. Before Reds fans get too worried, however, it should be pointed out that chief executive Martin Edwards was not talking about events on the football field. What he means is that Man-

chester United, despite having just pulled off the league and cup Double, still has more to do in a non-playing capacity.
True, the company has just

re-built the North Stand at the club's Old Trafford home, hoisting average attendances

But according to Mr Ed-wards, rivals like Blackburn Rovers and Newcastle United now enjoy better training fa-cilities than United, whose much-loved Cliff training ground — renowned in the Halcyon days of the Busby Babes — dates back to the

Accordingly, United is looking to build a brand-new training ground, comparable with class European acts such as Ajax Amsterum. likely cost of at least £10

BIDDERS for the key rail route between London and Glasgow

must agree to using new

£500 million, in order to

troduction of tilting trains as a way of significantly

The rail franchise direc-

tilting trains, costing train an attractive proposi-

tor, Roger Salmon, and Mr Horton said that Rail-Railtrack's chairman, Bob track would add a further

Horton, want to see the in- £150 million of improve-

Keith Harper Transport Editor

win the franchise.

what stage United has reached in launching its own TV channel, or how far putarecently with media group

All Sir Roland would say was that the approach from VCI — thought to have valued United at around £300 million - had never got past the "in-formal stage", that the Stock Exchange had not rapped United over the knuckles for going public with the information, and that the matter was now "water under the

But United shareholders and supporters — will be more excited about the prospects for the company's pay-per-view opportunities. Shareholders will cash in, de spite the fact that a United pay-per-view channel will not be allowed to show live foot-hall, while supporters — even those who cannot afford the channel — will benefit if, as Mr Edwards admits is possible, ticket prices are cut to ensure full houses at every

However, with 100,000 mem bers scrabbling for just 12,000 tickets every match day, a cut in gate prices does not yet

chairman Sir Roland Smith United blamed yesterday for

The sharp curves on the

400-mile west coast main

line, one of the busiest in

Britain, makes the tilting

tion. It is capable of speeds of 125 mph, which is faster

than conventional trains.

ments to help services.

Mr Horton said that Rail-

Among the 14 applica-

news that long-term contracts

home match.

Of course, the big question | Following the rebuilding of neither Mr Edwards nor the North Stand — which

£15.4 million — there are no plans for the time being to ex-

club's future, however, is have been agreed with eight of the current first team

Manchester Utd

Earnings Johann 18045 21

Rail bidders must tilt to demands for high speed

Among the 14 applications and is in need of heavy interesting former to Manchester would be reduced to 2 hours, and London to Glasgow to 4 hours 20 minutes.

Among the 14 applications senger transcuses to be let, and is in need of heavy interesting the interesting and is in need of heavy interesting the interesting and is in need of heavy interesting the interesting and is in need of heavy interesting the interesting and is in need of heavy interesting the interesting and is in need of heavy interesting the interesting and is in need of heavy interesting the interesting and is in need of heavy interesting the interesting and is in need of heavy interesting and is in nee

tend the ground although it is contracts.

possible to do so. More significant for the squad, blocking the threat of

Railtrack is committed to spending £1.3 billion on the route over the next 10 years.

Railtrack is committed to ing train was developed by spending £1.3 billion on the British Rail almost 20 years ago and put through a series of tests, but on one linked to Heathrow.

Mr Salmon said: "I am

high-profile run, the train

broke down and the project

was eventually abandoned. But the idea was picked

up in other parts of the world, particularly in Italy,

Sweden and Japan, where advanced models of BR's

early prototype are in daily

The west coast line is one of the last of BR's 25 passenger franchises to be let,

the fall in full-year pre-tax losing some in the post-Bos-profits from 220 million to man environment, while the five foreign players signed this summer have also agreed

> Only Ryan Giggs has yet to sign up on a long-term basis, apart from Eric Cantona (who has one year left on his con-tract) and Andy Cole (two years left), and, although in-flated players' salaries, post-Bosman, have hoisted the wage bill by £5 million a year, it at least means this aspect of United's overheads is now fixed for the next five years.

United's net spending on players came to £1.3 million in the last year, and since the year-end, the club is already up on transfer deals - follow ing the sale of Lee Sharpe to Leeds and the acquisition of Jordi Cruyff from Barcelona with the £8 million transfer fee reserve still in place on the balance sheet.

In the meantime, United es ects to make at least £5 million from participation in this year's European Champions League, while the new TV contract agreed by the Pre-mier League with BSkyB and the BBC for the next five domestic seasons, along with the new kit deal agreed with Umbro, means that income should jump substantially. Given all this, it is puzzling

that Mr Edwards and Sir Roland should play down Un-ited's potential for next year, despite the added player costs. It suggests the VCI approach, however informal has opened their eyes to the possibility that a predator

Mr Salmon said: "I am laying down a challenge to

the new rail industry to

build on this platform by submitting innovative bids

which will revolutionise

is that it will take a decade

to bring the line up to scratch. It has been cash starved, while the east

coast route between Lon-

don and Edinburgh has

The downside of the plan

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Experience

Stenheim

American's career under threat. writes William **Fotheringham**

when the 1993 world champion, Lance Armstrong of the United States, revealed yes-terday evening that he is suf-fering from testicular cancer and may not race again.

Armstrong, who is 24, is from Texas but he was resident just over the Italian border at Como for several years. He has won two stages in the Tour de France, and in last year's race had to cope with the sudden death of his Italian team-mate Fabio Ca-

sartelli after a crash on a descent in the Pyrenees.

The American called a telephone press conference from his home in Austin, Texas to reveal that the capter tree di.

Chris Rosydman who sine in the property of the said. phone press conterence from his home in Austin, Texas to reveal that the cancer was diagnosed on October 2 and that the following day he had an operation in St David's Hospital, Austin, to remove a tumour from one of his testicles. That operation was a



success but it was then discovered that the cancer had spread to his abdomen and he will now need to undergo a 12-Course

chemotherapy. SHADOW was cast over the opening of the World Road Championships here the 1993 world chamlance Armstrong of the States. revealed ves-"I fully intend to make a

Armstrong is celebrated for an aggressive racing style that has brought him notable one-day successes such as the San Sebastian World Cup race last year and the Flèche Wallonne classic this season. He is trying to be equally up-beat about his future: "I hope this will be a positive experi-ence, and I want to take the chance to help other people

news yesterday was Britain's Chris Boardman, who aims tomorrow to take the second world time-trial title of his career. "This is a shock," said the Wirral racer, who has four children. "Things like this put sport into perspective."

Today sees the women's

Today sees the women's and under-23 men's timetrials, and Britain's main hope for a medal will be Boardman's protege Yvonne McGregor. The Yorkshirewoman had a disappointing Olympics and then saw her chances in the world track championships in Manches-ter ruined by a cold.

The most notable British absentee is the eccentric Scot Graeme Obree, who has not competed since Atlanta where he performed far below his usual standard because of a virus which has affected his entire season. He subsequently pulled out of defend-



Happier times . . . Armstrong, who may not race again at top level, during the 1993 Tour du Pont PHOTOGRAPH, MRCE POWELL

ing his world track pursuit title at Manchester, and then turned down the place offered him alongside Boardman in the British team here.

After a career which saw him break the prestigious hour record twice and take two world track pursuit titles, Obree is considering retirement to take up producing.

Frank Vandenbroucke, the who was expected to lead the swiss team in the most prestigious event, Sunday's elite road race championship. One of the finest one-day racers in world cycling, Richard has hardly competed since winning the title in Atlanta, and put his withdrawal down to pared with the mountain now wing the title in Atlanta, and put his withdrawal down to pared with the mountain now wing the title in Atlanta, and pared with the mountain now wing the place offered the sport or I will not race at all, and it is likely to be the latter. The only thing I would on the sport or I will not race at all, and it is likely to be the latter. The only thing I would of the finest one-day racers in world cycling, Richard has hardly competed since winning the title in Atlanta, and put his withdrawal down to pared with the mountain now with the mountain now with the mountain now with the sport or I will not race at all, and it is likely to be the latter. The only thing I would of the finest one-day racers in world cycling, Richard has hardly competed since winning the title in Atlanta, and put his withdrawal down to pared with the mountain now with the mountain the most prestigious event, Sunday's elite with the mountain the After a career which saw him break the prestigious bour record twice and take two world track pursuit titles, Obree is considering retirement to take up producing handlebars.

In an considering my latter. The only thing I would road race championship. One has picked up a virus.

However, he, Richard and obree would be the first to adput his withdrawal down to make me think twice about that."

Besides Obree and Armstrong, who will be in most people's minds of form".

The only thing I would road race championship. One has picked up a virus.

However, he, Richard and obree would be the first to adput his withdrawal down to "a lack of motivation and lack of form".

handlebars. strong, the man who will be most missed here is the Olym-Another non-starter will be here this week.

Racing

Weaver set to appeal against Pontefract ban

ASON Weaver, criticised for his riding of Double Trigger at Longchamp and in trouble with the stewards at Pontefract on Monday, came out fighton montay, came out ugut-ing yesterday when he de-cided to appeal against the four-day ban which would rule him out of next week's Cesarewitch meeting.

The jockey will challenge the suspension for irre-sponsible riding imposed at Pontefract and aim to per-suade the Jockey Club's Disciplinary Committee the offence was socidental. offence was accidental.

If the latest ban is con-

firmed, a five-day sus-pended punishment will also be activated under the totting-up procedure, tak-ing Weaver's total for the year to 42 days.

Announcing his decision, Weaver said: "The punish-

ment is far too much and having viewed the incident I have decided to appeal. Rules are rules and we all have to abide by them but what happened at Ponte-fract was minimal."

Riding Shirley Sue in the 2m 1f Trinidad & Tobago Handicap, Weaver was found to have hampered an-other runner after switching right to get a run. The Pontefract stewards did not spot the incident until after the weigh-in, otherwise Shirley Sue would have Melbourne Cup and Breed-

rough jockey and my other colleagues don't consider me a dirty jockey. But things have got worse this year. It was not a case of trying to win at all costs. I "But we both thought we was instituted in the desired the interest trainer or oscar Schmaler, is keen on the Melbourne Cup — with the proviso that Michael Kinane rides. "Hindsight is a wonder-ful thing," said Lehane. was just trying to do my best," added Weaver.

Weaver missed the Doncaster St Leger meeting as part of the 16 days he was fences and had another five days suspended until

system which was intro-duced earlier this year and enables stewards to judge each case on its merits.
According to Jockey Club
figures Pat Eddery, who endured a similar run of bans

last year, has received only two days this season, Rich-ard Quinn, none, Kieren Fallon, eight, Frankie Det-tori, eight, John Reid, none, Kevin Darley, four, and Ray Cochrane, none. "The results are interest-ing and proves it is quite possible to get through the season without missing a whole host of rides and suc-

whole host of rines and suc-cesses," said David Pipe, di-rector of public affairs at the Jockey Club.

Weaver is expected to keep the ride on Double Trigger despite his reluc-tance to make sufficient use of the Mark Johnstontrained stayer at Longchamp.
It could be argued his tac-

tics were positively in-spired set alongside the efforts of Cash Amussen on Oscar Schindler in the Arc. The Irish St Leger win-

been disaqualified from fourth place.

"I don't consider myself a trainer of Oscar Schindler,

had made the right decision when booking Cash Asmus-sen to ride in the Arc. Oscar Schindler has had four dif-ferent jockeys on his last suspended for reaching the Jockey Club's totting up threshold for riding of- when he next runs."

York card with guide to the form

4.30 Wolf M

	No advantage, Gaing: Good. & Danotes Michers.	
	a in inspelyaje affer horse's misso simusto daya since inicel s	-
2.0	O SQUITY FRANCIAL COLLECTIONS HANDICAP SYO OF	CB,212
101	34423 BURKES MANOR (18) T Berron 9-7	D Nerrises 3
100	341 GAZELIC STORM (23) M Johnston 9-7	
108	021300 CLASS DISTINCTION (16) R Harmon 9-5	
104	31 LEVELLED (42) M Chargon 9-5	
106	56) AMYAS (18) (0) B HRIS 9-5	
100	40100 ZUGUOL (8) (D) B Henbury 9-2	
107	251 BLOOMING AMAZING (25) 4 Eyre 9-0	
108	625 STEP N GO (67) Mrs. J Remeden 6-10	K Pallon B
109	143300 NOSTALGIC AIR (36) (D) E Waymen 6-9	
110	SONCE TAILWIND (12) (DF) W Mair 8-9	
111	(COG) STYLE DANCER (10) R WRIGHT 8-8	
112	000 DOM (REPLANT (22) J HRS 7-10	

ttingr 7-4 Gaetic Storm, 4-7 Arayes, 6-7 Levelled, 8-1 Burbas Meror, Step N Go, 16-1 Class Distinc-craining America, 15-1 Zagudi, Telfolind.

FOSSE (CODE - CARLEC STORM: Prominent, led over 1f out, ran on well, seen by \$7 from Heart Throb (Sandown St. Go-Fm). ANYASIs to touch, headway 2f out, led inside less, beet Cooksoment 2s (Catlerick St., Gd-Fm). LEVELLES Made all, stayed on well, won by \$1 from Davis Rock (Carliste St. Gd).

, co-rm. Die Well Inere, every chance 2f aut, soon weekened, 121 18th bekind Pesua (Hewaterias 71, Gd). TBIBD: Held up, riccias 25 aut, one pape, 61 Ind bhd Analasis (Falkastone St, Gd-Fm).

2.30 ROODENSTONS LINETED STAKES for 21 196/de CA,CON	
201 221-060 BLACKPATCH SHLL (8) (D) N Tinkler 7-8-2	Tinider 1 *
202 250200 SILENTLY (11) Balding 4-9-0TQ	den 6
260 (S-0300 VAUGRENGER (8) (D) R Hannon 4-9-7	ratios E
204 54-5050 DEE-LADY (12) W Turner 4-8-13 A C	-k2
206 22-2021 STEP ALOFT (8) Lord Hundingston 4-8-15Ale	ee Cook (5) 8
	eser 10
267 035240 BOYAL ACTION (26) J Serie 3-8-9	Hen (7) 7
208 25040 TAUFAN BUY (21) P Herris 3-8-8 Q B	mi 8
209 (213 PUCE (87) (BF) L Current 3-8-8O U	telos S
210 3-0305 AMMECY (55) H Cocil 3-5-8	Alon 4
#11 62-23 LADY JOSEBIA (80) (8F) J Duniop 3-1-6 P	rises 11
an name was the sales of the State of T	

Bertings 11-4 Step Aloit, 4-1 Puce, 5-1 Lady Joeans, 5-1 Silently, Amery, 5-1 Vaugnevier. 11 commerc Posse gustott – STEP ALCIFT: Lad over 31 cust, ran oo strongly, won by 30 from Bubble Wings (Newmarks) Trudi opp, Gd). project, every chance over 11 out, one pace, 28 and behind Casual Water (Goodwood

3.0	O HENTENGTON HOTEL YORK RACINGUES HANDICAP IN CS.S	578
101	200502 HISEDER TRADER (7) (CD) Mrs J Remeden 5-9-12	Fortuna 54
	300014 BUREFESSE MISSION (11) (D) Mrs J Passaden 4-9-11	Company of the last of the las
22	31-000 AIR WING (6) (D) M Tompkine 3-9-11	R Biss 15
-	150500 STOLUN 1085 (11) (B) M W Easterby 4-5-10	Il Haghes 22×
102 103 104 105	21/003 BOYAL DOME (11) (CD) M Ware 4-8-9	M. Roberto 13
	Signed Strait County (11) (col) in state and	
06	SKROS SALLY SLADE (22) (D) C C)224 4-8-8	D Cuffield 1+
197 198	094309 THE MAPPY FOX (14) (D) B McMaton 4-8-8	F Lynch (3) 8
0		Q Partin (5) 7*
99		Martin Durjer (5) 18
HO	URIS EMPONISE CONTRACTOR (18) (D) Making Land Annual Community	O Press (C) 47
111	1500 STRA (45) (D) J Evre 6-8-6	O Pears (2) 17
12	MAJOR MEDIE PROMISE & STAR (491/ID) J CRIT 8-8-2	A Culture 20
Ha	ASSESS ASSESS AND ASSESS AND ASSESS ASSESS AND ASSESS AND ASSESS ASSESSMENT A	J Stack 6
14		A Dely (6) 23
HI	000004 SADDLESONE (12) (CD) T Barron 7-8-4	T Cutes 19
10	12102 LITERARY SOCIETY (6) (D) J Toller 3-0-4	S Senders Ø
	And and community of the I Berry S.C.?	
17	251104 SQUIRE CONSE (14) (D) 3 Harwood 4-9-3	Cago Horseod (7)
H9	321/04 20/00 COMME (14) (n) 4 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	94
		E Souring 2*
MO	DSUISO DAAWE (11) (C) (D) Mrs V Acontey 5-5-3	Carrol 11*
21 22	202008 SHADOW JURY (13) (D) D Chapman 8-5-13	Shu Greens 46
21	MITTON CREATE CHAPEAD (20) (D) (EF) D NICTORS 4-5-31	
22	ACCOUNT AND A VIEW (1945) (1951) (1950) 3-10-10	Q Lee (5) 4+ A Chris 3
724	OCTORS OF THE PROPERTY PLOT (II) II (III) III III III III III III I	

PORM CASES - WESTERS TRADISH Crused leaders, every classes first furing, rax os, 12 2nd behiot Porticle (Biomessie S, Go-Fm). COMT RAVACER Headway Zoud, ran on inside less, 151 2nd to Lord High Admiral, with HOYAL DOME (gave

Pounist (introcesie S. Go-Fm). Fan on inside lest, till Zud in Lord High Admirel, with HOYAL DOME (gave Pounist (introcesie S. Go-Fm). Fan on inside lest, till Zud in Lord High Admirel, with HOYAL DOME (gave St) another till away Zud, SUPPRISE MISSION (gave 8th) nit away 4th, KRA (gave St) Ste & JUCEA (gave 8th) 1th of 15 (Haydock K). GO.

Internativ Bocket VI Chased Teaders, no water leader float farlong, 19 2nd to Swyntord Drawn (Internativ County VI Chased Teaders, no water leaders. (Neumaring St. Gd-Fm). SABOLINGERS Held up, progress last 25, neumast at Snigh, 31 4th of 25 betaind Develop (haydock St. Gd). SOURCE COMMENTA Always prominent, rom on well lined tortong, 18 4th behind School Fisipe, with MALISU MAN (gave 36), 20, gapty 7th (Goodwood St. Gd-Fm).

3.30 POOKER CHIEF'S LANDER HANDICAP IN 25 SAPE	C6,005
	2 PED-19
465 - 010000 THEE FOR ACTION (10) M Tomphins 4-9-13 -	# Lapple 16
402 281513 FAR AREAD (18) (D) J Eyro 4 9-12	J Fortuna 8
	M Pentas 15
404 601000 QUEENS CONSUL (19) B Robwell 6-0-11	
405 230542 FOREST BORDA (32) R Johnson Houghton 3-8-	R McChin 17
400 1-0050 HAND CRAFT (13) W Hagges 4-0-7	4 End 12
407 5134(B. KINGS ASSEMBLY (25) (D) P Harris 4-9-5 -	If Roberts 2×
408 . 1250 F. 1867 18 18 18 18 19 1 19 10 16 17 17 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18	A Clark 18
409. 111001 OCEAN PARK (12) (D) Lady Herrice 5-8-4 -	
410 \$-2001 PASTERNAK (S) (58) (40) (3) III (45) (31)	K Pallon 6
411 35000 BONTLED OWER (18) (C) C Cyzer 3-8-18	
412 12:785 APOLLORO (12) Familialia 1-0-13	S Sandara 19
413 010016 STATILY DANCES (32) (D) G Wags 3-8-19 -	
414 18-302 00ELOS (11) (II) Mrs J Cacil 5-5-12	Martin Daryer (5) E
415 E2007 MANEUR (9) (516 ex) (D) W Elsey 4-5-12	Nemedy 204
ALE COUNT EVERAL (A) (OR OL) (A) A CHAN A C	T Williams 8±
416 49320 CALDER KING (12) (NF) J Eyre 5-8-8	D Harrison 13
417 10225 DAIRA (5) J Bernell 3-8-8	F Lymah (3) 1
418 00523 EARADATA (16) (D) 8 Holistoned 4-8-3	
420 52314 DRUMANIR HICKS (81) (C) (D) E Woymes 7-7-	
The remu man of the same of the same of the same of	

Batther: 5-1 Pasternak, 7-1 Ferra's Governor, Octon Park, 5-1 Fer Ahend, Forest Robles, 10-1 Apollono, 12-Obelos, Caira, Frezolista, Simbly Cancer

BIRT MICKS: Wookened over 17 put, IV 4th birt Dounting Destiny (Newclock, 1m2), Gd-Fm).

O APSOLUTE LIBERTY (#1) 5 Woods 8-0

M CORAL RELAND (8) 1 FixGeraid 9-0

6 CYMBET RELAND (9) 1 FixGeraid 9-0

6 WEART OF GOLD (23) Mos 3 Hall 9-0

58 EZ CRETINET (106) Mrs A Serblank 9-0

58 EZ CRETINET (13) Lowel 9-0

54 LOYE MS DO (13) M Johnston 9-0

50 BOM PERFORMER (50) M Canacho 8-0

4 581 YALBOT (7) R Harron 9-0

2 SHOW PARTENDING (73) P Cale 9-0 8 TROOPER (7) P Coin 9-0
8 MES KALARLOW (15) C Well 5-8
6 WELL YOU DANCE (19) J Duniup 8ZIGEY'S VIOLA LET M Reveley 5-8

TOP FORM TIPS: Snow Partridge 2, Kalinini 7, Leve No Do S FORM GMOC - SHOW PARTREDGE Rigger over 21 out, every chance over 11 out, not quicken, 152 2nd

prints Mantener (Accel 71, Gd-Fm).

(KALINDER In touch Jung left over 11 out, stayed on, dit 3rd bird Passana City, ertin LOVE ME DO flevals)
elect Stales, 15 may 4th (Pontehnac 1m, Gd).

(79809788CH8GLGGT) Hever nevers, 17 7m bird Kahel (Accel 7f, Gd).

(87809788CH8GLGGT) Hever nevers, 17 7m bird Kahel (Accel 7f, Gd).

4,3	D THE SANCTON MAJORN STAKES 270 41 CS,500	
601	PREDICTOR JAMES M Heaton-Etts 9-0	J Carrell 5
102	LITTELAN P Wateryn 9-0	
603	2 BIDIAN BRAVE (7) M Jornston 9-0	Western 4
804	OF MOOKSHIPTER (13) G WINGS 9-0	
806	SAFLEGGRY P Hastern 9-0	
808	TAL-Y-LLYM B HOW 9-0	
407	230 WOLF MOUNTAIN (II) R Harmon S-0	
806	05 PIGLIA (44) C Booth 8-8	L Clumest B+

PORM COMPE - STOLF MONTHANG Effort over 21 aut, one pace final farleng, 41 Mt of 23 behind Papus ast 71, GeP. BEALYS: Led until over 21 pcs. not quicken final ferlang. 118 2nd bhd Danadine (Newcostie M. Gd-

finj.		
5.	00 ees	LEDATE RATED RANDICAP III CO,682
1 2	201162	JARAH (9) (D) Saeed bin Surger 3-9-7
4	540043	GRAND NDSICA (25) Beiding 3-8-1
5	000650	TEXTRON (6) (D) M Ware 4-8-11 R Hardin (3) 4 LAWAAL (19) (CD) Lady Henries 6-8-5 Figure (3) 5
7	452008	OYMCRAX PRIMINER (25) (5) (7) (3 lohen 6-6
10	800540	KALA SURESSE (16) C South 3-8-6
K)	PORT THE	Grand Musica 8, Mai'r Pai 7, Turtium 6

Bettings 5-2 Hafe Pal, 4-1 Grand Mastex, 9-2 April The Eighth, 8-1 Jouetal, 8-1 Tertians, 9-1 Janes, 12-1 Polar Edges, 14-1 Hibrita. POWER COMME. FRALES PALE Held up, offert over 17 out, led briefly inside last, no outre. (\$1 2nd blad Arms).
Agests (Accel Im., Gd).
GRANDS BERSIGNE Creased winner, risiden over 21 out, he interession. 25 2nd to Star of Zitzel (Zondwood 21

Blinkered for the first time — TOWCESTER: 2.20 Northern Law; 2.50 Ragtime Song. YORK: 2.30 Blackpatch Hill; 3.00 Daawe; 4.30 Figlia; 5.00 Hilaala, Polar Eclipse. NOTTINGHAM: 2.10 Coal To Diamonds, Slightly Oliver.

ONPP- BITE THE BULLET (274) A Chamberhun 5-10-12 IP- PRINCE RICO (186) W Brisbourin 5-10-12 IP- PRACTIMES SONG (18) Jenkins 7-10-12 IP- TOMAL (240) B Ingam 4-10-12 225-YOUNG RADICAL (185) J Upon 4-10-11

1 1/44-12 MBL O'THE HAGE (25) Mrs D Haint 7-11-5 2 09985- BOYAL BAND (1939) & MSCHIK &-10-2 19000- LABICS TAIL (185) P Webber 8-10-7 4 (1957-04 MARTHARS DADOMTHE (11) T FORSET 7-10-7

Beldings 1-2 Young Ractical, 11-4 Tornel, 9-1 Regions Song, 33-1 Prince Rice, Bite The Bullet

Burglage 4-5 Marcha's Daughter, 6-4 Milt O'The Raga, 12-1 Lanta Tail, 16-1 Rayal Hand

Nottingham runners and riders

		IO Searpetta
3.10	Castae 4.4	10 Miss Prison
	5.10 Terreme	illnes
	litgh numbers best in 3.40. Oping: Good to fire	
2.1	O JOHN BOUNTENEY SELLING STAKES 2YO	im 50yds £2,070
1	(15883 SUBMEERVILLE WOOD (14) (C) P Mos	ney 9-2 DR NeCabo 14
2	@ DOMPT POOR ME (18) P Mooney 8-11.	P ReCabe (3) 4
3	@ FLAHINE'S PREST (22) J Moore 8-11	P P Mespley (4) 6
4	MACAM B Baugh 8-11 006 RESNO GLORY (16) Ness J Crazo 8-11	
5	(06 PIESNO OLORY (18) Miss J Cruzo 8-11	
	RYLES DANCER J Scarge 8-11	Derdend 6
7	& SLIGHTLY OLIVER (18) G Levis &-11	5 Whibrerth 5+
8	(I) THE DUBIOUS GOOSE (48) J PitzGers	id 8-11
	10462 THE CAN TELL (16) C Murray 5-11 .	D Makeover 17
10	10482 THE CAN THE (16) C Murray 5-15 . 00 VERMORP'S CET (20) J Scorgil 8-11	K Onriey 13
11	CATIBLES FLOWER JA Hards 8-6	O'Bally 16
12	CHEPET A Jones 8-6	
13	30 COAL TO DIAMONDS (29) G Jobason	Houghton 8-5
14	(I) CONTROL FREAK (18) A Foster 8-6 . 53834 CORNCRAKE (89) (NF) B Montron 8-6	T Spenie 4
15	53804 CORNCRAKE (88) (NF) B Montain 8-6	3 Doyle 3 .
16	026 HEAVENLY DANCES (80) Mrs N Mace	
17	MUSTANG SCALLY I Markle A.S.	J Camping 19

rcor, 1	1 Time Can 186, 4-1 Summarville Hool, 5-1 Comprais, 8-1 Sligmy Off 1 Reing Glory.	ner, 10-1 (16)(16)(18 (18)
.40	EF MADER FILLER STAKES 170 im 54yla (1,626	
_	4 AGONY AURIT (15) Nrs J Cacil 8-11	trime? S
1 2 3 4 5	22 ALPHABET (23) M Stores 9-11	Substant 11
3	0 BRAYE (CHS (34) L Current 8-11	4
4	IP BLEACHA (47) M Jarva 5-11	schraus 7
5	FASCINATING HITYTHRI H Cacil 6-11	Eddery 8
	CRACEFUL LASS D Loder 8-11P M	
7	GRAPENNE P Chappie-Hyam 6-17	
À	IRISH PET J Bustane 6-11	min 2
•	LIFFRE J Goaden 8-11	
	5 OLD COLORY (11) P Cole 8-11	Dar B
14	S BOYAL ROULETTE (16) \$ Woods 8-11	
12	THORRIEY PARK J Dunlop 6-11T Sy	12
12	22 WOODSIA (29) (BF) D Loter 8-11 K D	netwo 10
	TIPS: Alphatieri S, Winning 7, Woodsin 6	a.e., 10

Bettilegs 5-2 Feachusting Rhythm, 11-4 Algissbet, 5-1 Graceful Lase, 7-1 Elbachs, Grapevine, 8-1 Woodels Libre, 14-1 Thorsby Perk, 20-1 Brieve Kris, Inish Pet.

-1	O TON	BY LAWTON HANDICAP 1m 54yds 83,360	
1	4VEROE	CONFRONTER (10) (II) 5 Dow 7-9-11	A Darttoni di
2	644133	CASTAIT (78) (RF) J Dunlop 3-9-10	Put Middery 2
3	0-50110	VENE VIDE VICE (11) (D) M Heaton-Elits 3-8-6	S Drowne 1
ă.		SPECING CAMPARAN (DE) (RF) M Pipe 3-0-8	
6	550000	CLASSY CHEEF (28) R Boss 3-9-0	
š		SAFEY ARA (19) 8 Harbury 5-8-5	
7	414600	CLASSIC BALLET (44) (D) R Hurris 3-8-5	
8	3335-0	ARZAHI (12) D Cosgrove 5-9-4	
ě		PARLIAMENT PERCE (565 (D) Capt J Wilson 10-8-4	
ō		SAND STAR (12) D Hayda Jones 4-9-4	
Ĭ		SUNO SCIENTIC (19) (II) T Easterby 4-9-3	
ż		ANORYM (12) (b) (BF) D Nichollu 4-8-2	
3		MOROCCO (12) (D) M Charmon 7-8-2	
4		WAFT (156) B HRIb 3-9-1	
é		DAYTONA SEACE (405) (D) D firest Decis 8-0-1	
6		CONSIDERAL (12) (D) J Bradley 5-8-0	
7		EXPLOSIVE POWER (186) G Bravery 5-8-13	
é		MUSTR'T COUMBLE (10) (D) Mam 6 Wilson 8-4-18	
_		Sand Start House Country & Contract C	

Betting: 6-1 Castan, 7-1 Ananys., 5-1 Mustin't Grumble, 10-1 Veni Vtd Vtol, Sand Star, 12-1 Saley Asa, Sering Castantim.

an series	Ampujir.	10 marin
.4	D PAYIS CHALLERINE HARBICAP III 22,844	
1234	22713 FWAN AT WHALLEY (82) (D) M Ware 4-10-0 P Rehert (19455 SDIRCLLION (12) (D) Arbeitect 5-9-10 W R Swi- 28000 SEAL VERTURE (25) (D) S Portry 5-9-10 T Spring (1900) CHADERLL BALL (13) (CD) S Borring 5-9-1 C Tempe 315(2) PRIOS OF HAVING (1-9) (D) P Hedger 5-9-1	12 12 (2) 16 é
* 7	153145 PHARACHYS JOY (20) (C) (D) J Payre 3-8-6	me 18

Towcester National Hunt programme

2.20 Perioh Walk 2.50 Young Radical 3.20 Mercha's Daughter Gring Firm (good to first in photos). * Paperso is brockets after horse's open 2.20 ASCOTE SELLING HURDLE 2	Denotes Minkors. Senote days since labout MH culling.	3.50 (2000 PASAS HANDICAP INDIBALE 2m 52,585 11112 MOLLBOLL (18) (5) H Collegridge 5-11-19 2 01-2131 VERDE LURA (11) D Arbitrot 4-11-10 3 4-03-79 EXCLUSION (28) (6) J Hodreton 7-11-4 4 (PL-P12 RACAREPTEN BORBO (18) (6) H Collegridge 7-10-10 _ 5 (19295- SHOW BOARD (631) kins M Jense 7-10-2 5 (1938-16) Lipid 8 11 9 L Marriey 6-2 (Min I Medic) 9 mm Bookles 16-8 Verde Luca, 3-4 Weibert, 9-2 Registrydin Remac, 6-1 Stev Box
1 (3000-0 DO BE WARE (43) J Ph	ch-floyen 6-11-5 B Feetim At Newty 5-10-12 A Begins of the Warry 6-10-11 I Learnesse of 10-11 T Eley (May 7-2 () White) 4 ram (they 2 Lee, 5-1 Do Se Mare	4.20 In the second of the seco

1996; Sanire Jim 11 10 10 E A Pitagerald 23-1 (A Babbara) S co. Bettings 2-1 Procen Drop, 7-2 Jan Volendre, 5-1 Polar Region, 6-1 Thus Andronicus, 8-1 Noci. The Droumer, 10-1 K C's Dimow, 16-1 Woodlands Gorldre.

Literature, april and a second, and a second a second and
4.50 COSCINON NOVICE HANDICAP HISTORIA == C2.852 1

lings 8-11 Hydrons Chauces, 7-2 Arcange A Germe, 6-1 Young Tessa, Credit Controller, 25-1 Pervand

ĢΙ	3	
	3-2005 MAMRAS (19) P Murphy 3-9-1	
	410361 SOUPERFICIAL (18) (CD) J Glover 5-9-0	
10	(2002 ANOTHER BATCHWORTH (ES) E Wheeler 4-8-0	
11	0-50000 AMY LESON (14) (D) J Wilson 3-9-0	C Retter 18
12	04-3500 MIGHT HARMONY (18) R Hannen 3-9-0	Pat Bidery 10
13	023130 SUPERMIT (16) (D) 6 McMahon 4-8-13	W Bren 15
14	712304 KALAR (10) (D) D Crepmen 7-8-12	
16	99430 DOMBHELLE (12) (D) (EF) T Separty 4-3-12	
16	525000 LLOC (18) (D) C Dwyor 4-5-11	
17	40025) SUPERFRELLS (80) Mag L Siddell 1-5-6	
16	540010 FORZARA (68) (D) (BF) J Berry 3-8-8	
10	DOMO SOTONIAN (NOL) (22) P Fulgate 3-8-4	
20	001020 ASSECTRIBAZY (14) (D) N Berry 5-8-4	
21	S08900 MP/FOLLATE (9) (D) M Where 7-8-2	
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2	11405-0 BARBCHFRITE (189) Mrs M Revoley 4-9-8	
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	56-000 FRO (7) T Neuchton 3-8-12	J D Smith (8) 18
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11	0000 DANCE MODEL (12) / Sheehun 3-5-10	
12	00-6005 ROYRACE (137) W Brisbourra 4-8-9	R Cockrane 7
12	330/00-0 KING WELLAN (46) H Berry 11-8-8	
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15	513040 ZELIBA (12) Mrs N Macaulty 4-5-7	
16	(GCC-5) GUNDLER B SPECIAL (4) S Bowring 3-3-0	
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2	8	AYDIGO (18) J Pource 9-0	
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		STAJILLOUT WALIZER K Bridgwater 8-0	V Stattery 2
	49-444	STELLAR LINE (18) B Hills 9-0	R Coolstane 8
7	32	FORRESOLINOS (21) (NF) H Cocil P-0	Pat Eddory 8
8		MEXICONIC J Gosdan 8-9	L Dettori 10
		REEDWOOD NUTKIN & Morgan 8-4	
10	i	DK THE GREEN A Hide 8-8	

1.30: 1, BHTTVATI, T Sprake (25-1): 2, Fartham (6-13 Fav) and Rhapsocky in White (16-1) dead-healed 11 ren. 18. (J Dunlop) T: 260.00; 57.20. Fartham 51.10, Rhapsocy in White E3.40, DF: Intiyes, Fartham 51.40. Intiyes, Ranpacody in White 147.30. CSF-Intiyes, Fartham 520.10. Intiyes, Ranpacody in White 2160.72. Tota: 5118.20.

2.00: 1, CRANGEWAR, D Harrison (9-4)

RESURTS

PREDCAR

2.15: 1, VOLLEY, G Carter [10-1]; 2, Wolling Carter [10-1]; 3, Booker [10-1]; 2, Booker [10-1];



First Division

Birmingham City 0

Stewart

shows

Sullivan

red light

wanted to play this

match and in the event Birmingham did not: that will

be the most cynical interpre-tation of a convincing defeat

at the McAlpine Stadium al-though for long periods the visitors were the equals of a spirited Huddersfield side.

However Birmingham's en-

night's match because three

players were on Under-21

duty was not entirely under-standable unless they plan to

schedule a fixture for each of

the 12 days of Christmas With only seven games completed, they arrived in

Super moves but ARL gets cash boost

UPERT MURDOCH'S global Super League unfold yesterday, even while the vanquished Australian Rugby League was given a huge financial lift by its main backer.

On both sides of the world Super League moved quickly to take full advantage of its astonishing appeal-court win over the ARL last Friday.

Yesterday the Australian Super League set a deadline of tomorrow and delivered notice to Ken Arthurson, the head of the ARL, that it would then approach those players locked into the league's loyalty contracts.

Last night it seemed less likely that the ARL would have to accept Friday's verdict — when three judges reversed an earlier ruling in its favour — as the end of its attempt to keep control of the

Reports from Australia say that Optus, which financed the Australian league last year, was ready to support the ARL to the tune of \$A100 million (about £50 million).

Last weekend the ARL's op-tions had seemed limited to running its competition alongside the Super League version, but with financial support from Optus, which has a place in Kerry Packer's business portfolio, a further appeal to the Supreme Court

cannot be ruled out.

The ARL will not be able to lia starting operations even if it does appeal, and so far as the British game is concerned there could be an interesting spin-off should Super League succeed in tempting ARL-contracted players to change sides at the end of their legal

The Wigan pair, the centre

Gary Connolly and the winger Jason Robinson, signed contracts to join the ARL at the end of their pres-Park. Robinson is due to leave at the end of next season and Connolly at the end of the 1999 competition.

In signing the lucrative contracts, believed to be worth £1 million over four years, both players agreed not to play for Great Britain, which meant that they were ruled out of the side currently

on tour in New Zealand Robinson has made it clear that he has changed his mind about moving to Australia, but Wigan, with less money to spend than in previous years, could not afford to buy out his sources close to the player, who is presently playing on the wing for the Bath rugby union club, say he would take seriously any offer from

Super League.
The same source says that Connolly, who is playing rugby union with Harlequins this winter, would consider moving to Super League pro-viding he was allowed to play for Australian clubs once his

Wigan contract ran out. The advantage for Great Britain is that if both players joined the Super League they would be back in the international arena, thus enhancing British chances of competing seriously against Australia.

Today the European Super

League clubs' marketing arm, Rugby League Europe Limited, sits down with the Rugby Football League's board of directors to discuss the parameters of RLE's operations. It will no doubt want a large degree of self-determi-nation, and the great question at the meeting in Leeds will be whether the RFL's board will concede the degree of in-dependence that the Super League clubs desire.

Testing times for second-string Lions

Andy Wilson in Auckland

Test against New Zealand on Friday week. Not in tomorrow's game against a select side from the domestic Lion Red Cup competition, but next Tuesday when the Lions' second string face a formidable-looking President's XIII.

With only three days be-tween the President's game and the Auckland Test, Phil Larder has to rest his strongest side, the team that defeated Fiji 72-4 on Saturday, giving them instead a run-out against the weaker of the two pre-Test opponents at Carlaw match will, however, give the coach an opportunity to assess the depth of his squad.

The vice-captain Denis Betts thinks the President's XIII will be the toughest opposition the Lions have vet met. and his opinion is valid as 10 of his Auckland Warriors club-mates are in the squad.

last season in the reserve bench by Tulsen Tollett and grade, but they won 17 of Adrian Morley. their last 18 games in the Op-tus Cup before losing nar-rowly to Cronulla in the Several of the President's

XIII are familiar to others in the British squad. Iva Ropati played for Featherstone and Oldham, Shane Endacott for Hull and Aaron Whittaker for Chorley and Wakefield, Hitro Okesene, moreover, is remem-bered fondly in Carlisle for his block-busting running and remarkable appetite.
In contrast the Lion Red

Cup team have only two players with British experience the stand-off David Bailey and

Great Britain had an excellent training session at Corn-wall Park yesterday, when they refamiliarised themselves with green grass and driving rain after two weeks on the parched pitches of PNG and Fiji. Bobbie Goulding missed the

session with a foot injury sus tained against Fiji but has elected for tomorrow, as has his St Helens club-mate Anthony Sullivan, who in jured his shoulder in that game. There are two changes in the substitutes, with Tony Smith and Keith Senior held back for a full game on Tues day and replaced on the

ACITAL MOTIEY.

GREAT BRITAMS Spruce (Bradford);

Hunte (St Helens), Radinski (Wigani,
Powell (Keighley), Salisten (St Helens);

Harris (Warrington), Goalding (St
Helens);

Broadbent (Sheffleid),
Cunniespham (St Helens), Bobermott
(Bradford), Betts (Auxidand), Scuthorpe
(Warrington), Farrell (Wigan, Capt).

Substitutes: Tollett (London), Mortey
(Leeds), Cassidy (Wigan), Molley
(Featherstone).

 In Australia, speculation continues to mount that clubs and players previously loyal to the ARL may defect to Super League after Friday's appeal-court victory, giving the Lions assistant coach Gary Hetherington high hopes that Lee Jackson, released by Newcastle Knights, will rejoin

made modest impacts with Wakefield and Warrington REAT BRITAIN's undefeated tour record will still good enough to beat Papua New Guinea on Wednesday by the same margin as Great Britain four days earlier — two points — but an indication of the Kumuls' decline since leaving home came when they lost 40-14 to the New Zealand Maoris in Hastings yesterday, after the 62-8 Test thrashing by the Kiwis at the weekend.

Sheffleld Eagles.

game 10 years ago."
Mick McCarthy, who will name his team shortly before the kick-off, admits that the absence through injury of Roy Keane, Roy Houghton side Denis Irwin and Steve Staunton. Liverpool's Jason the injured Niall Quinn and land attempt to build on the McAteer will probably play in edonia drew with Denmark partner Norwich's Keith 5-0 victory in Liechtenstein central midfield in the ab-

"I still have that hunger for goals," he said. "It's a bonus

for me to be recalled to the

squad. Putting the ball in the net is still just as big a thrill

for me as when I made my debut in Jack Charlton's first

O'Neill, 18 years Aldridge's in August. But the manager sence of Keane and Houghton junior. | insisted: "There are a lot of as McCarthy adheres rigidly promising young players coming through the ranks." The goalkeeper Shay Given (Blackburn), Gary Breen (Bir-mingham), Ian Harte (Leeds) and O'Neill played no part

under Charlton. Tonight they can repay McCarthy's faith in Breen has recovered from a to a 5-3-2 system. Macedonia, who head the

group, will be without their best-known player, the former Internazionale striker Darko Pancev, who has a a long-term ankle injury. But the Balkan team will still present problems; in their previous two qualifiers they saw off Liechtenstein 3-0 in Skopje and drew 1-1 with Iceland in Reykjavik. McCarthy is also fully aware that Mac-

draw by Armenia in Belfast and the Ukraine beating Portugal in Kiev, that should be sufficient warning," he said. But another 33,000 capacity Dublin crowd are waiting to hail Aldridge and an Irish

Given (Blackburn), Keema (Blackburn) Irwin (Man Uid), Brown (Birmingham) Stauntos (A Villa), Marte (Leeds) McLoughtin (Portsmouth), McAtes (Liverpool), Townsoud (A Villa), Aldridge

ee with law

"I don't know what the situation is because nobody from Manchester has had the courtesy to tell me," said Kumar. "I sent Manchester City a fax to try to have some clarification, because as far as I am concerned Phil Neal has the



Call to the captaincy ... John Collins leads Scotland against Estonia tonight in the absence of the suspended Gary McAllister PHOTOGRAPH: MATTHEW ASHTON

World Cup qualifiers, Group Four: Estonia v Scotland

Scotland on automaton alert

Patrick Glenn in Tallinn on disciplinary dangers for Craig Brown's team tonight

more worried about the danger of further disciplinary action against his players than the threat posed by Estonia here

He believes that international referees are being Fifa edicts and the forceful pre-match verbal reminders from the world governing body's official observers. The Scots have already lost

their captain Gary McAllister for tonight's match in the Ka-driorg Stadium because of a second yellow card received during last Saturday's 2-0 victory in Latvia. His first had come in the opening World Cup tie in Austria last month. McAllister's deputy, John Collins, was also cautioned in Riga and a repeat here would cost him a place in the match against Sweden - unanimously regarded as Scotland's most formidable oppo-nents in the Group Four qualifiers - at Ibrox on No-

"I have no doubt that the

Charlie Stuart in Dublin

dridge will be given the

opportunity tonight to earn a place in the Republic

of Ireland record books when

he takes on Macedonia's de-

ence in the World Cup quali-

The Tranmere player-man-

iger, only one short of Frank

Stapleton's total of 20 Irish goals, is almost certain to

return as the replacement for the injured Niall Quinn and

fier at Lansdowne Road.

Results

First Division

Second Division

Semi-final

Group Four

Group Eight

EUROPEAN U-21

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP

St Johnstone (1) 4 Montrose (1) 2 Grant 31, 58, 70 (pen) McGlashan 40, 86 (pen) O'Boyle 75

CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING

Rep of Ira (1) 4 FYR Macedonia (0) 0 Foley 32, Carr 72 2,300

Button 1.

PONTINS LEAGUE: Premier Divinion:
Clidham 1. Noltin Forcet 1: Shell Wed 3.
Leads 2. Firsts: Shell Util 2. Port Vale 1.
Seconds: Man City 0, Grinsby 2; Rother
nam 1, Stockport 2. Thirds Walsall 1, Scarhorsesth 1.

burough 1.

LEAGUE OF WALKS: Bangor C 3, Rhyl 0;
Barry Tn 6, Carmerthen Tn 0, Caersws 0,
Ebbw Vale 5; Flint In 0, Connah's Quay 2:
Uarsantfiraid 3, Aberystwyth 2.

COTLAND's manager instructions being issued now are more stringent than ever." are more stringent than ever." said Brown. "Last weekend we overheard the Fifa delegate, Horst Brummeier of Austria, give the Czech referee UIrich Jiri a warning not to tolerate the slightest dissent

or time-wasting.
"The delegate tomorrow is Jean-Marie Gantenbein of Luxembourg and he will doubtless apprise the referee, Miroslav Radoman of Yugoslavia, in the same way.

"We know they are simply doing their jobs as instructed, and we start every match with faith in the officials. But we will be warning our players to be very careful. We usually have trouble enough with injury call-offs from our group without adding suspensions. I'm convinced that the referees in this World Cup series will be even stricter than in the previous tourna-ment and in Euro 96."

Curiously, Collins picked up a caution in the first qualifying match of the last Euro-pean Championship, against Finland in Helsinki, and managed to avoid another in the Miller, of Rangers. It was revenge foul on Priidel.

Group Eight: Republic of Ireland v Macedonia

next nine games, in which he termined. But there is a cer-was ever present. tain return for Bolton's 32-

Tonight the Monaco midfielder will be in charge of a team with two central defenders, five across the middle and three strikers, a forma-tion indicating Brown's determination to overcome Estonia's reliance on almost relentless defending.

Brown's selection problem concerns the three central land's Euro 96 squad, has midfielders, who will not be been compensated in the past finalised until the fitness of few days by the birth of his

beat Estonia 1-0 in their

Group Four qualifier in

Hamilton headed home in

the 31st minute but the vic-tory was marred by a book-ing for the captain Charlie

Dundee's striker Jim

Tallinn vesterday.

Irish goal record fuels Aldridge's hunger

year-old striker John McGinlay, Chelsea's John Spencer having flown home yesterday with a hamstring injury. McGinlay, who confessed to

the two most disappointing moments of my life" last summer, when Bolton were rele-gated from the Premiership and he was left out of Scot-

Hamilton ends drought

shocking 12th-minute

which earned the Estonian

a booking. The Scot was car-

ried off on a stretcher for

treatment, but within three

minutes of returning he was cautioned in turn for a

the national team.
It seems unlikely that he will suffer any further disappointment against Estonia. Scotland's hosts tonight have lost 20 of 22 matches they have played in major competitions since rejoining Fifa as an independent state after the

European Under-21 Championship: Estonia 0, Scotland 1

SCOTLAND registered his second caution of the He was substituted after their first goal and first tournament and rules him 39 minutes, Darren Dods

half after suffering a shoulder injury in colliding with his team-mate Gary Naysmith.

Birmingham had little response. They conceded a third goel in the last minute of the half, Makel's long ball release. ing Payton. His shot was

win in three European out of the game against taking over as captain, and Under-21 Championship Sweden next month.

Sweden next month.

Miller was hurt after a half after suffering a shoulder injury in colliding Scotland's goal came after they forced a corner. saved but Dalton followed to **Eventually Rickle Gillies**

Birmingham began the second half as promisingly as they had the first. They could also lay claim to the more coltured midfield, with Hunt's passing particularly pleasing, but when the same player shot high from 30 yards it was more evidence of Birming ham's frustration.

Furlong was making a weightier contribution, al-though he twice failed to extend Francis in Hudders-

again warmed to their task. The impressive Makel had a low shot deflected wide and Bennett was fortunate to avoid Donowa's flailing defensive boot on the far post as be

Team talk

The independent news and reports service 0891 33 77+

Arsenal	06	Ipswich Town	19	Sheffield United	15	
Aston VIIIa	11	Leeds United	03	Sheffield Wed.	14	
Birm. City	34	Leicester City	35	Southhempton	20	
Blackburn	21	Liverpool	04	Stoke City	30	
Bolton	36	Man. City	02	Sunderland	27	
Brentford	24	Man, United	01	Tottenham Hot.	07	
Burnley	31	Middlesbrough	23	West Ham	12	
Chelsea	06	Milwall	29	Wimbledon	26	
Coventry City	17	Newcastle Utd	16	Wolves	37	
Derby County	28	Norwich City	18	Celtic	09	
Everton	05	Nottrn. Forest	13	Rangers	10	
Hudd, Town	32	QPR	25			
CALLS COST 50P PE	R AMN MK	N FFI, BAM-SPM AND	45e pg	R MIN AT ALL OTHER TIME	5.	

SUPPLIED BY, BAS, 15 MARK LANE, LEEDS UST BUB. HELPLINE: 0171 713 4473

The Guardian CINTERACTIVE

ANGLO-WELSH CUP: Pool 1 &: Lekom 60. Bridgend 22. REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Newport Barbarians 86.

ATP CA-TROPHY (Vienna): First round:

7 Enquist (Swa) bi A Berasstegui (Sp)
6-0, 6-4; A Berasstegui (Sp)
6-0, 6-4; A Berasstegui (Sp)
6-0, 6-4; A Berasstegui (Sp)
6-1, 6-3, 6-4; S Edburg (Swa) bi J
Krostak (Stovah) 8-4, 8-2; M Stein (Ger) bi
H Gumy (Arg) 6-2, 6-2; G Natabasve (Croalla) bi F Donuli (Bei) 4-6, 7-5, 6-2.

LTA AUTUMN MASTERS SATELLITE
(Shelleld): Mean Second round: C Wildianon (GB) bi A Savritov (Rus) 6-3, 6-1;
A Pitrusta (GB) bi S Pender (GB) 8-3, 6-3,
C Boschar (GB) bi M Wyeth (GB) 8-1, 4-8,
6-2; P Robinson (GB) bi A Pitrardson
(GB) 6-4, 4-6, 7-6; R Keenig (SA) bi L
Gioria (US) 4-6, 6-3, 6-2; P Rosai (Swe)
bi D Vera (Fr) 0-6, 6-2; P Rosai (Swe)
bi D Vera (Fr) 0-6, 6-2, 6-3.

FILDERSTADT WOMEN'S TOURNAMESTIS First rounds A Carlesson (Swe) bi

FILDERSTADT WOMEN'S TOURNA-MESTIF First rounds A Carisanon (Swe) bt G Sabatini (Arg) 7-5, 6-4; J Newtons (Cc) bt S Smith (Eng) 6-1, 6-2, J Wieseror (Aut) bt N Tauzini (Fr) 7-5, 7-5; D wan Floods (Bet) bt M World-Witneyer (US) 7-5, 6-4; J Caprized (US) bt N Zverous (Bala) 7-5, 6-3; N Medvedexa (Usr) bt M Maleova (But) 3-6, 7-5, 7-5; A Coetzer (SA) bt H Sukova (Cz) 8-1, 8-3.

Chess

BOMARCH ASSURANCE OPEN (Isle o Man): Round Four V Tkachlev (Kgz) 1, 1 Gofsiteln (kg/) 0; J Hodgson K A Baburin (re) K R Hartoch (Neth) D, K Arkell 1: A Ledger K I Novikov (Rus) K D Novenod 1 D Coleman 0; J Emms 1, D Sedgwick 0; T Chamberian D, H Hart 1. Landgers Arkell Tkachlev 3K J Hector (Swe), S Kristenser (Den), Baburin, Emms, Hodgson, Novwood

American Football MESF'S WORLD GUP PRELIMINARY ROUND (Cagliari): Pool As China 3. Switzertand 3, Kazakhetan 1, New Zoeland 3. Flasii staedinger 1, Canada 149ts; 2, New Zoeland 14; 3. Switzerland 8: 4, Weles 7: 5, Egypt 6; 6, China 5: 7, Kazukhstan 4. Pool

Be treland 3, listy 1; Scotland 2, Kenya 0.
Final standinger 1, Ireland 18ths; 2, 2
Poiand 13, 3, Raly 10; 4, Kenya 6; 5, Scotland 5; 6. United States 4; 7, Bangladeah 4, ABWHA COLPS Secential And States 4; 7, Bangladeah 4, ABWHA COLPS Secential And States 4; 7, Bangladeah 4, ABWHA COLPS Secential And States 4; 7, Bangladeah 4, ABWHA COLPS Secential And States 4; 7, Bangladeah 4, ABWHA COLPS Secential And States 4; 7, Bangladeah 4, ABWHA COLPS Secential And States 4; 7, Bangladeah 4, ABWHA COLPS Secential And States 4; 7, Bangladeah 4, ABWHA COLPS Secential And States 4; 7, Bangladeah 4, ABWHA COLPS Secential And States 4; 7, Bangladeah 4, ABWHA COLPS States 5; 9, 2,

Snooker MALTA GP (Marsascala): First rousd Grack (Malta) bt W Yttorne (Eng) 5-3. Squash

QATAR INTERNATIONAL (Dona) locand round: G Walker (Eng) bt Z-J Chan (Pak) 15-7, 15-5, 17-16. Genter-

N of Interior Language Company (Nuclea Lumper): First round: T Shorthon (Eng) bt Y Kirnura (Japan) 9-6. 8-8. 9-3: T Wooks (Aus) bt T Berestord (II) 9-10, 9-5. 9-5. 9-5. 9-6. 9-6. 9-6. Y Wooks (NZ) bt C Yeo (Mai) 9-6. 9-2. 9-5. S Cook (NZ) bt K Southerner (NZ) bt K Southerner (Carl) 9-6. 9-4. 9-6: D Brady-florte

Fixtures

WORLD CUP EUROPEAN CUALIFYING
Group Ones Denmark v Greece (8.15).
Group Twee England v Poland (8.0): Itany v
Georgie (8.30). Group Three: Norway v
Hungary (7.0). Group Three: Norway v
Hungary (7.0). Group Four Belants v Latvia (5.30): Estonia v Scotland (4.45):
Sweden v Austria (8.0); Group Five Israel
v Flussia (5.0) Group Size Cz Rep v Spain
(7.15). Group Seves: San Marino v Belgium (8.30). Group Eight: Icaiand v Romania (8.0); Lihuania v Liechtenstein (4.30);
Rep of Ireland v FVR Macsdonia. Group
Ninsa Albania v Portugal (8 0); Armerse v
Germany (6 0).

N-W COUNTIES LEAGUE First Dislations is Neight in South, Floodift Trobing First-round, first legs Darwen v
Citheros

FEDERATION BRIEWERY NORTHERN
LEAGUE First: Guisborough Tn v Crook
'In: Murton v Stockton; Whitby Tn v Bedlington Tor.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE
Presidents Cups Second round: Winterton Ringts v Heitlield Main.

PONTINS LEAGUE (7.0): President Prisident Tranmer's Wirmingham, FirstAston Villa v Coveniny, Huddersfield v
West Brom; Sunderland v Leicester; Wolverhampton v Blackpool, Seconds Burnley v
Mensfield (7.15); Wrexham v Carliste;
York v Barmsley, Thirds Bury v Rochdale;
Lincoln v Doncaster; Wigan v Scunthorpe.

AVON LINGUARING COMBINATION:
First Divisions Ericki C v Oxford Lift;
Norwich v Answal; Portsmouth v Crystal
Palace (7.0); West Hem v Swanses (2.0);
Watsord v Bournemouth.
WELSH CUP: Second rounds House.

Wattord v Sournemouth.
WELSH CUP: Second rounds Hoove Sports v Maesteg Pk LEAGUE OF WALES: Cernaes Bey

CLUBS: Cambridge Univ v Waspe (7.15): Ldn Irlsh v Loughbrough Side; Oxford Univ v Combined London OB (7.15). ANGLO-WELSH CUP: Pool 1B: Cardin (Harlequins (7.15)
SPAJ U-21 INTER DISTRICT CHAMPS
ONSHIP: SOUTH OF SCHOOL IN CLASSICS

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completed, they arrived in West Yorkshire second from bottom of the table and, if that was not disturbing enough for their new manager Francis, he also had to contend with the mayerick promotion b behaviour of the club's backer David Sullivan, who is threatening resignation at every conceivable slight. Britain in Da If Birmingham's league po-sition does not improve soon the soft-porn businessman might yet be found hanging from a discarded bra-strap; Birmingham, after fleeting

promise, were two down mid way through the first half and three behind by the interval. The first was largely down to Rob Edwards. Stewart dashed at the left of the Bhmingham defence but, finding his path blocked, exchanged short passes with Edwards, who was close at hand. Just as the move seemed destined

to falter, Edwards spurted to his left and his angled drive spat into Bennett's top right disintegration of the Soviet hand corner. Huddersfield's second arose from a corner unnecessarily conceded by Ablett, whose visions of a routine back-pass were betrayed by a greass surface. Edwards's corner picked out Stewart in a chister of defenders and his down

ward header possessed enough pace to beat Bennett. Birmingham must have been relieved when he retired with a leg injury 10 minutes before half-time, but the tone of the evening had already been set.

Apart from Hunt's short free-kick, when Devlin's attempt was cleared by Gray.

sent over a curling cross and Hamilton found space

"When you look at last weekend's results, with Northern Ireland held to a second half before Town

saved Gray's header.

Cardiff threaten

CARDIFF CITY have taken legal advice and threatened Francis Lee's

Cardiff want compensation for losing their manager Phil Neal to the Maine Road club. Their chairman Samesh Kumar says he was the last to know that Neal was resigning to head north and assist the new Manchester City manager Steve Coppeil.

best part of a 3%-year con-tract left. If he has been taken on by Manchester City, surely I should receive a call."

Kumar confirmed that he had placed the matter in the hands of solicitors, and added: "I respect Phil and want to help him, but at the same time everybody seems to be looking after No. 1. The people who have been left in the lurch are Cardiff

12-10 ···

THE PERSON

All and

Carry

Wednesday Octobers

First Division

Huddersfield Ton

Headingley back down memory lane

Martin Kettle remembers great moments in the stadium which will 'always be more than the ageing hulk it has now become'

but a bit rejected today. Even now, when I say I come from Leeds, I can tell it doesn't cause hearts to beat at our ground — was a source faster. But if I say I come from Headingley, then ... well, at the great Sir Leonard had least there is a recognition done it himself.

that it's somewhere special.

But not for much longer. As a child I used to delight in the fact that, for a few days a year, the eyes of the world were on our little bit of north Leeds. Even the national weather forecast used to go out of its way to tell us whether there would be rain

never scored a single run there. But the fact that Bradman had got 300 in a day on that ground down the road —

I saw my first match at Headingley as a five-year-old; Doug Padgett got 80-some-thing against Derbyshire. That summer of 1955 I saw England play South Africa at Headingley, my first Test match, though I can't remember much about it except that it was the first and so far the only time I've seen anyone

OU can't be born and brought up in Headingley as I was and feel anything never scored a single run horror in the lunch-hour that of the teachers telling us in horror in the lunch-hour that England were 17 for three against Australia. When the final bell rang that afternoon we ran down North Lane to the ground to see what had happened. And so it was that as a six-year-old I saw the last couple of hours of the Peter May-Cyril Washbrook stand which has become legend.

Washbrook was from Lan-cashire and I can never fully enjoy a Lancastrian's success to this day. As people have looked back this week on Hea-dingley's great days, most of the milestones that have been in Headingley.

To me, and a few million others including Sir Donald Bradman, Headingley will always be more than the ageing hulk of a stadium it has now only time I've seen anyone out "hit wicket".

But it was 1956 that made me realise my good fortune.

My junior school, Headingley I know it's become a cliche to say this — but as David

Mellor said at Bournemouth yesterday, cliches are what they are partly because they are true — yet those Roses matches of the late 1950s were epic events. For one thing the ground was packed — inconceivable today. For another, and I'm not making this up, the match was watched in al-

most total silence.

It's also my impression that the crowd was incredibly learned. My mother's friend Dorothy used to sit there reminiscing about her hero Percy Holmes, and there was a man from Bradford who was writ-ing a biography of Roy Kilner who once pointed out to me where Trumper had been dis-missed when he batted at Headingley in 1902. For those of us old enough

to remember a Yorkshire championship-winning side, those years were full of great Headingley memories: Close, Boycott and Padgett in their prime, Phil Sharpe in the slips, Ken Taylor fielding in

Jimmy Binks, Don Wilson ing Bramall Lane and Park an embarrassment not a football stadiums to be ducking to avoid a bouncer Avenue in the great necropol source of pride. And now, as and being caught at the ils of Yorkshire grounds. Per always, there's nowhere to cities where most of them are wicket when the ball nicked the bat as he held it aloft. And above all Fred Trueman, the god who failed but still an imperishable sight as he began that immaculate run-in from

the Kirkstall Lane end. There's a photograph in the latest issue of Wisden of the crowd at Leeds during the 1965 Test against New Zealand — the one when John Edrich made 310 not out, the only time I saw 300 against a batsman's name on that funny old scoreboard on which my brother learned to count. It is a picture from another world, with hundreds of sleeves (though one of my memories of Leeds crowds is that there were also a surpris-ingly large number of women), no advertising boardings, the batsmen not

wearing helmets. All that has gone now, and Headingley is going too, join-

haps that's right. It hadn't kept up as a Test ground though if the new ground be-comes a sea of debenture boxes, we'll soon become nos-

talgic for its concrete ter-dustrial age. It's crazy for there that races. The crowd has become county cricket grounds and start now?

Floodlights have not been included in the initial plans

park around St Michael's

today. I know there can be no Lane and Cardigan Road.

I'm a moderniser at heart. I want sports stadiums to be regenerated for the post-in-years. What guarantee is years. What guarantee is there that they are going to

Yorkshire seek illumination over new ground

VORKSHIRE will seek to become the first county will consider asking the to stage official floodlit cricket if their proposed freedom to schedule a limination." Hassell said yester-£32 million White Rose Stadium gets the go-ahead, writes David Hopps.

drawn up on behalf of Wakefield's city council but Chris Hassell, Yorkshire's chief executive, has requested that provision be

Yorkshire, who envisage leaving Headingley by 2000

ited number of day-night matches at their 30,000 allseat stadium.

As floodlit matches are already a feature of the World Cup, cricket's most prestigious one-day compe tition, it would be inconsistent if the English board cringed at the switching of a few Sunday league fix-tures in the middle of an

day, "We aim to become a northern rival to Lord's and might even be able to stage a Benson & Hedges Cup final on that basis."

That ambition seems unrealisable. Lord's has long proved its ability to attract more revenue than any regional ground, even without its capacity of nearly 40.000 being taken into

Sport in brief

Promotion boost for Britain in Davis Cup

GREAT BRITAIN's tennis captain David Lloyd can envisage good chances of promotion after yesterday's draw for the Davis Cup. His team need win only two ties next year to rejoin the elite 16 tennis nations of the World Group in 1998. Britain start with a bye in Euro-African zone Group One and are at home in April to the winner of the Zimbabwe-Ukraine tie. Victory would say a World Group gualifying match in Startenburg. earn a World Group qualifying match in September.

Zimbabwe's two best players are the Black brothers Byron, the world No. 49, and Wayne, No. 248. The Ukraine bave Andrei Medvedev, once the world No. 4 and still No. 31, but their next-best player Andrei Rybalko is ranked only 338. Tim Henman, now in the top 30, and Greg Rusedski steered Britain to a 5-0 win over Egypt to seal promotion from Euro-African zone Group Two last month, and yesterday Rusedski beat the Russian Andrei Olhovskiy 6-3, 6-0 to reach the second round of the

Steffi Graf, forced by a knee injury to pull out of the Leipzig
Open tournament last week, will also miss the European Indoors in Zurich next week for the fourth year in a row. Monica Seles, who shares the women's world No. I spot with her, is already out with shoulder and knee trouble.

DAWIS CUP DRAW, Extra-African some Group Once First round (Feb 7-6); Beigium bye; Dammark v Hungary; Great Britain bye; Zimbabwe v Ukraine; Israel bye; Slovaida bye; Croatie v Morocco: Austria bye. Second round (April 4-6); Beigium v Denmark or Hungary; Great Britain v Zimbabwe or Ukraine; Slovaida v Israel; Austrie v Croatie or Hungary; Great Britain v Zimbabwe or Ukraine; Slovaida v Israel; Austrie v Croatie or Linda v Linda

Marshall battling back

PETER MARSHALL, the first Briton to reach a World Open squash final, is attempting a comeback this autumn after an 18month battle with the mysterious aliment known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, writes Richard Jago. The former world No. 2 from Nottingham will play for the Hertfordshire club Broxbourne

in the SRA National League.
Fiona Geaves and Linda Charman led an English charge at the day, winning their opening matches within 20 minutes. Geaves defeated Amy Milanek of the United States and Charman beat Louise Finnegan, Ireland's sole qualifier. There were also wins for Cassie Jackman, Rebecca Macree, the British champion Suzanne Horner and the British junior champion Tracey Shenton. Macree had the hardest fight, taking almost an hour to beat Australia's Kate Major 6-9, 9-2, 9-7, 9-1.

Bears an endangered species

A FRESH crisis at Oldham Bears surfaced yesterday when share-holders were warned that the Super League rugby club will collapse without increased income from the turnstiles and com-mercial activities. Accounts to May 31 1995 revealed a gross deficit of £1,037,323 and a deficit of £75,185 on the profit-and-loss account. An extraordinary general meeting has been called for October 30. Their bank has agreed to increase the overdraft to £500,000 but only if directors inject a further £50,000 into the company and increase their personal guarantees to the bank from £100,000 to £200,000. This news came only days after the announcement that the club's Watersheddings ground will be demolished before Christmas, Oldham will play at Boundary Park next season under a one-year agreement with their soccer neighbours Oldham

Guards hope to calm Storm

THE Derby Storm are hoping to arrest their recent Budweiser Baskethall League decline by signing two guards to replace the sacked American Rod Gregoire, writes Robert Pryce. Their forms England gunner Kurt Samuels returns after a 10-day trial with Verona, and Mickey Frazier, a young American point guard out of Canisius University, is parked in Calais awaiting a work

permit.

Gregoire, who had been scoring at over 20 points a game, returned to the United States last Wednesday after a Saturday-night transgression so embarrassing to the club that the chairman Bob Horton has forbidden his employees from talking about it. "It was bad," the coach Jeff Jones admitted. "I'm quite sure most clubs wouldn't have tolerated it."

Italian fans held for extortion

NINE supporters of AS Roma have been placed under house NINE supporters of AS Roma have been placed under house arrest while police investigate allegations of theft, menacing behaviour and attempted extortion against the Italian First Division soccer club. Three of the nine are suspected of having used menaces against club officials and two tour operators to try to obtain cut-price travel and tickets for Roma's Uefa Cup quarterfinal away leg against the Czech side Slavia Prague last March. Seven members of the group are said to be extremist right-wing sympathlsers known as "Ultras". In a taped telephone conversation with a Roma official, one of the group is alleged to have threatened to hire a plane to take 200 men to the Prague game and "smash up the stadium" unless they got tickets.

Sedgwick king for a day

THE British Chess Federation's international director David Sedgwick, ranked only 334th in England, scored the upset of the Isle of Man's Monarch Assurance Open when he drew with the Ukrainian grandmaster Mikhail Brodsky, writes Leonard Barden. Keith Arkell, the former Midlands champion, shares the lead with the top seed Vladimir Tkachiev from Kazakhstan after four rounds of the £10,000 event.

Hampsten retires at 34

ANDREW HAMPSTEN, the only American to win the Tour of Italy, has announced his retirement at 34. During his 12-year career as a professional cyclist he also won the Tour of Switzerland twice and finished fourth in the Tour de France, winning the prestigious mountain stage to L'Alpe d'Huez in 1992. He spent most of his career on the European circuit, riding for such teams as La Vie Claire and Banesto, and has settled in the Italian town of



Last orders please . . . the Harlequins captain at his Courage best, answering punters' questions during his pub performance PHOTOGRAPH; KPPA MATTHEWS

Small beer as Jayce is called to the bar

Eddie Butier gets spaced out at the Jason Leonard show in the Kings Arms

the captain of Harle-quins, that dangerous outsider for the captaincy of England, was stage-managed with all the care you would expect in the age of sport as showbiz. The minders from Courage.

the brewer and sponsor, darted back and forth, calcu-lating how many minutes the star should be held back in

factor of his appearance.
It was an interesting calcuation. At 7.30pm, the time advertised for the "Meet Jason Leonard Evening", the Kings Arms, Twickenham was, well, not overflowing. The previous evening,

purely in the name of the pro-fessional recce and because the Kings Arms was not in the telephone book, I had toured the taverns of Twick-enham in search of its where-

abouts. Finally, at the Duke of Cambridge, about four miles off-target and on the wrong side of the big road that gets abso-lutely clogged on rugby days, a man in the corner of the bar

HE grand entrance of Kings Arms," he mused the captain of Harle-quins, that dangerous the Pope's Grotto, the Swan, the Cabbage Patch, the

Anchor..."
"I know," I shurred.
"But the Kings Arms ...
Sorry, mate. But I tell you what, there'll be standing room only for Jayce.' At 7.30 on the big night, the

pub having finally been lo-cated off Twickenham Green, cated off Twickenham Green, there was standing room, sitting room and play-pool-with-out-sticking-your-cue-in-someone's-rear room. There was room to have composed an ode to solitude. Jayce was held back a little longer by the Courage impresarios.

It must be a funny thing.

It must be a funny thing, being a modern player at the Harlequins. Early last summer I went to a morning ses-sion of a three-day conference on sponsorship and market-ing opportunities in sport in an hotel in London. At this conference the newly revealed relationship be-tween Harlequins and NEC was dissected. This was an ex-ample of packaging the corpo-

invitation-only club. Crowds, who needed them? All that mattered was a chap's pedigree. Public school, Army, university. Two will do, three invitation-only club. Crowds, rush. And he has had a few hand-off. That didn't leave many slips of paper. There were a few about the England captaincy. Lawrence Dallaguit of a spat on the issue of lie is the favourite but Leonis even better. Oxbridge a

And now they are the NEC home at The Stoop. There was even some talk of the match television interviews current leaders of League One the guys can take their NEC baseball caps off only if they are talking about international rugby, not the club.

There was room to stand, to sit or to compose an ode to solitude

NEC does not want to be associated with strikes. And Jason Leonard of Barking, Essex, successor to Will Carling of Sedbergh, Durham University and the Army, was outside the Kings Arms waiting for his cue to enter. At about 9.30 Jayce was un-

veiled. The pub had filled to such an extent that the pool rate and the sporting players had to say "Excuse together. Rugby was in the big league. We knew this be-

ground-sharing at the college next door to Harlequins'

and their Japanese backer being cast out of the Rugby Football Union. Still, Jayce was a mate and Sheehan welcomed the captain of Quins to his pub with relief.

England's Ioose-head — or is it tight-head nowadays? has a brilliant gait. He has that stiff-necked uprightness of a front-row forward who has been compressed in too many scrummages. His throat bears the mark where the surgeons went in to do a bit of soldering on his vertebrae. But if his head does not turn an inch, the rest of him rolls like an old tub caught in

ard has a bit of form. Again, our boy was coy. It is difficult to know what

he did before he became J Leonard, professional player. I always thought he was a cabinet-maker, and had this vision of him dovetailing some ornate sideboard in a chirpy East End workshop. But then someone told me he banged together pallets for forklift trucks to throw

around. Not that it matters. For he is indeed now Jason the Proand he handles public speaking on nimble feet. "On the question of the captaincy, I'm out of the picture. Let's just say Jack Rowell, the England coach, and I have had a few words over the social side of the game." Will and Di had the hand-off; this was the

sidestep.

His great barrel chest was clad in a simple blue T-shirt, his bowed slabs of legs were denim, mind you, in keeping with the spirit of the evening, for this was neither to be formal nor a free-for-all.

White slips were handed out We wrote down our questions and Jason quickly vetin the world? Jeff Probyn.
And so it went on, the pub-

Fallon back in **England** frame

■HE Richmond wing Jim Fallon has become the first player to be called switching back to rugby union from rugby league. He is named in an extended squad for today's training session at Bisham Abbey.

The former Leeds rugby league player, who returned to his first club in the summer, won four England A caps while with Bath in 1992 before switching from union

in the same year. The Gloucester fly-half Mark Mapletoft, in outstanding form in a struggling side this season, Sale's centre Jos Baxendell and the Richmond flanker Rob Leach are also drafted into the squad. The Wasps centre Damian Hopley

returns after a knee injury. The newcomers deputise for the injured three-quarters Phil De Glanville, Jim Naylor and Will Greenwood and the Wasps back-row forward

Harlequins have switched their Wigan rugby league im-port Gary Connolly to full-back for tonight's Anglo-Welsh match in Cardiff. The Great Britain centre, who has scored four tries in four games since signing a winter contract, replaces Jim Staples, one of 11 players rested after Quins demolished

Orrell 89-18 last Saturday. Will Carling also steps down, allowing his fellow England squad member Paul Challinor a chance to reclaim the fly-half jersey before Quins' European Cup opener against Ulster next week.

Cardiff give the Wales wing Simon Hill little recovery time after Saturday's Test victory over Italy, naming him in an all-international threequarter line with Nigel Walker, Mike Hall and Gareth Jones. Hill's Wales colleagues Jonathan Humphreys and Hemi Taylor are also

required as replacements. Harlequins are the only side with a 100 per cent record in the top two leagues of the Courage Championship but they last won at the Arms Park 12 years ago and have won there only six times since the war.

"People still attach the Fancy-Dan image to the Har-lequins and I'm sure there are

a man in the corner of the bar with half a pint, a packet of crisps and Motorcycle News had heard of the spectacular. He was a Harlequins supporters through and through — "a mid the agenda, ahead of the AA Quins nutter, me" — and he knew Jason well enough to call him Jayce.

The Kings Arms, the land the sporting with half a pint, a packet of crisps and Motorcycle News had been a private-members, land to say "Excuse me" every now and again. But there were certainly enough punters to allow the landlord and Courage to breathe a sigh of relief.

John Sheehan, the said landlord, was especially relieved. The promotion night was all arranged in a bit of a "Don't know, ain't saying" out. We wrote down our questions and Jason quickly vetted them while chatting and sipping his ginger ale. When he was ready he rolled his way into the middle of the pub to give his replies.

It was intriguing how Harlequins, until so very lately, call him Jayce.

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In the world? Jeff Probyn.

And so it went on, the pub dist the week to set the them while chatting and sipping his ginger ale. When he was ready he rolled his way into the middle of the pub to give his replies.

The pile of Will and Di questions disappeared with a "To-shirt. Our Jayce, down the local. Well worth a recce."

Sailing

Fire aboard 3Com but crew decide to press on for victory

would want, but the crew of 3Com, competing in the BT Global Challenge, had to challenge, had to think quickly.

Scan was then 40 miles east-north-east of Las Palmas

Supplies from the batteries at their master switches; then their master switches; then the skipper David Tomkinson had to think quickly.

Las Palmas is almost the generator room.

3Com was then 40 miles east-north-east of Las Palmas

Supplies from the batteries at their master switches; then the skipper David Tomkinson had to think quickly.

Las Palmas is almost the last possible stopping point on this leg, but to go there would mean losing an enor-

in the Canaries, running under spinnaker and full under spinnaker and full other 13 boats. As the overall mainsail. They doused the mainsail. They doused the mainsail turned off all power the crew were unanimous while he will cannibalise supplies from the batteries at their master witches then the control of spinnaker and full other 13 boats. As the overall prize is on cumulative time, the crew were unanimous while he will cannibalise supplies from the batteries at their master witches then the control of ground to the section plus damaged components, when identified, to effect proper repair. Mean while he will cannibalise that they should go on.

Scotland finally find their touch

Kenya yesterday were

FIRST-half goals from | Wales can still secure the Chris Anderson and last place in the second Richard Freeland against phase after Switzerland staged a comeback to draw enough to give Scotland 3-3 with China, who had

Wales can still secure the

Cancer shock for champion cyclist, page 13 Packer pledges support for ARL, page 14

Challenge yacht fights the flames, page 15 Yorkshire plan floodlit cricket, page 15

SportsGuardian

VISITORS MISS KEY MEN FOR WORLD CUP QUALIFIER

David Lacey on Glenn Hoddle's attempts to revive the spirit of Euro 96 when he makes his Wembley managerial debut tonight

Pole position for England

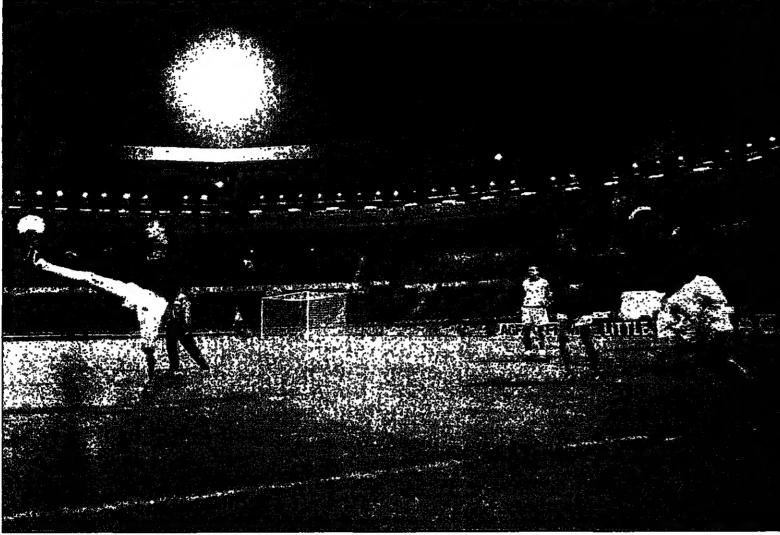
latest homecoming should leave Wem-bley feeling reasonsanguine of succeeding where Graham Taylor failed, by taking England to the 1998 World Cup in France, If Alan Shearer gets the proper service, and in particular the right quality of cross, against Poland tonight the international scoring form he discovered during the European Championship will surely do the rest.

A repetition of the 3-0 vic-tory Hoddle achieved against Moldova five weeks ago in his first match as Terry Vena-bles's successor is more than likely. Poland's team, without a win in a dozen games, are in a poor state: out of form and fractious, with several over-seas players at odds with the coach Antoni Piechniczek. and the man most likely to pose problems for the Eng-land defence, Juskowiak, out of the squad and sulking.

Kowalczyk and Ivan have also quarrelled with Piechniczek and refused to play. Tonight Poland will pack their midfield and hope Nowak's vision can surprise England on the counter, as a more accomplished Polish side did 23 years ago in elimi-nating Alf Ramsey's team from the 1974 World Cup with a 1-1 draw at Wembley.

Talk of that result crops up whenever England play the Poles at home, although subsequent meetings have seen Poland beaten 3-0, 2-0 and 3-0 again. Though the teams of Bobby Robson and Taylor scrambled draws in Katowice and Poznan, the spell Poland might once have cast over English ambitions in major tournaments surely disap-peared with Gary Lineker's hat-trick in the 1986 World Cup. Maybe it is Shearer's turn for one now.

When the draw for this qualifying tournament was made it was easy to assume



Silent practice . . . Poland's squad warm up for Glenn Hoddle's team in the vast emptiness of Wembley last night

gia, where Italy play Georgia, will test the truth of that

Maybe the Georgians will loom larger on England's

horses in England's group, that case it will be even more just as Norway proved to be last time. Tonight's results, both at Wembley and in Perumance tonight which will ture. Too many fatted calves have been dished up only for England to find themselves leave them confident to face Georgi Kinkladze and com-pany in Tblisi on November 9.

Even if England win with

the elan of their 4-1 victory

Beating Italy at Wembley in

February will give Hoddle his best chance of topping Group Two and avoiding the possi-

Naturally, with Ferdinand now joined by Shearer at Newcastle, the question of both leading the England attack has been discussed at length. It would be surprising, however, to see Ferdinand starting tonight, partly because this sort of combina-tion seldom works at major tournament level but as much because, as Shearer admits, the pair are still working things out at St James' Park. In any case, why leave out Barmby after his encouraging performance alongside only team change Hoddle need make now recall McManaman to float behind the front runners and omit Hinchcliffe. Either way

Academics, unless they are French,

conspiracy

Politicians,

dismiss them

Journalists,

who retail

them in

private.

in public.

who like

in them.

to indulge

inevitably

pour scorn on

them in print.

Roy Greenslade

on the Diana tapes

G2 page 7

theories.

dislike

Poland tonight is merely a

tion Hoddle has said plenty over the past week without

actually saying anything. No

missed but no probability has

means towards that end. In the matter of team selec

and whatever cameos Gascoigne can provide.

Memories of the way Taylor began his attempt to qualify for the 1994 World Cup, when Rekdal's late goal for Norway forced a 1-1 draw at Wembley after the home side had domi-nated, are still relevant. Even

an impoverished Poland attack would not ignore the space Hoddle's three-man defence allowed Moldova at the start of last month's game. High though English hopes might be after Euro 96, more over, it is pertinent to point out that in their last 10 competitive fixtures at Wembley discounting penalty shoot outs, England have drawn as many times as they have won. Now seems as good a time as

any to tip the balance.

Also-rans in the league of nations



Jim White

tist ought to have taped last Saturday's sent copies to potential clients. Rarely can the Lineker dental as it did during the brief his-tory of Anglo-Polish football-ing encounters that formed the

programme's centrepiece.
After watching himself scoring goal after crucial goal ainst the unfortunate Poles, often accompanied by the sound of Jimmy Hill losing all ense of impartiality in the commentary box, the Lineker grin was on full beam, teeth glinting off the studio lights. "I used to enjoy playing Poland," he said with an understatement that might have been

scripted by Desmond Lynam. Yet, in the history of oland-England encounters. is not Lineker's one-man annexation of games that has etched itself on the national psyche. We seem to have forotten, for instance, that it was his goals against Polanc that took England to the 1988 European Championship. Graham Taylor forgot it almost immediately, and he was

manager at the time. Rather we prefer to remem ber the gloomy November came to Wembley and in 90 minutes exposed the canard that the Seventies were some kind of sunlit upland for English football, an era pat-rolled solely by world-class,

ball-juggling geniuses. Hunter's girlie miskick, Clarke and Bell playing pir ball off the woodwork, Tomaszewski's invitation to Brian Clough to get a large knife and fork and eat his words, those are the bleak images of that night of ignominy. Indeed, Lineker did not in-

ite Peter Shilton to join him on Football Focus to celebrate the great goalkeeper's century plus of caps, still less to provide a showcase for Shilts's rapier wit, but rather to have him explain why he had bellyflopped over a pallid drive to

allow the Poles their goal. Shilton's only realistic defence was to plead the O J Simpson line; after all he was clearly somewhere else at the time the crime was committed There was an odd air of injustice about that result, a

sense that rotatid really shouldn't have been allowed to do that sort of thing, depriving us of our rightful place in the World Cup fun and subjecting us instead to a summer of Scottish triumphalism.

What happened that night was that the old world order was turned over, and with it the certainties of a generation a trauma barely dissipated with time. The shock was all the more acute because major upsets are comparatively unusual in international tournaments. Like our own dear Pre miership, international football increasingly resembles a cosy cartel carve-up; only four or five teams ever

win anything. The parallels between our domestic hierarchy and that of the international game are uncomfortably close. Italy, for instance, are the Arsenal of world football: favouring the dour, giving nothing away at the back, prone to scandal. Brazil are the Liverpeol: the longest record of success, brilliance recently tempered by pragmatism, capable of wear-ing bad suits. France are the favourite, high on expecta-tion, low on achievement. And Germany are the Manche United: they win everything and everyone hates them.

The analogies for the British nations in the international league make less than comfort able reading. Scotland are the Coventry City: they have man aged to stay in the top flight for decades without ever looking like winning the title, and inunderstanding how they stay there. Wales are Northampton Town: once they were contenders, but so long ago that everyone assumes it was an adminis-trative mix-up. And Northern Ireland are the Brighton: in catastrophic decline, perched perilously above the drop into the minor leagues, an outfit so demoralised that their manager recently considered tak-ing on Manchester City.

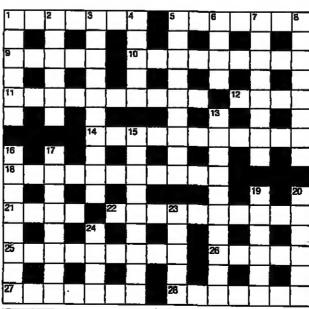
NGLAND, meanwhile, are the Chelsea: they won a cup longer ago than most care to remember, a one-off followed by generations of disappoint-ment; recently, though, the arrival of a couple of enlightened coaches, a couple of semi-finals and suddenly their followers are deluding themselves they are ready to com-pete with the big boys again.

In which case, many will be hoping that tonight Poland turn out to be what their record suggests: they are the Sunderland of international football. They had their glorious moment at Wembley in 1973, but have done absolutely nothing since.

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Guardian Crossword No 20,779

Set by Araucaria



Across

- 1 Servant holds second person in (7)
- 5 Two-headed phrase,
- maybe? Maybe (7) 9 Religious people tried to
- supplant 14 (5) 10 Troubles go in cycles in 14
- 11 King Emperor's island has right to make music of 14 (6.4) 12 Utopian requirement of 14 (4)
- 14 Writes one-volt novel this is one (6,5) 18 How restless could be the hero of Nazi song (5,6)
- 21 Frighten student with cover for 9 (4)
- 22 Rule about girl with oranges and one sort of pasta (10) 25 Duke beheaded by another
- 26 Hard work fashionable in 14
- 27 Err leaving 14 characters for bridge in Calderdale (7) 28 Roy's one out? Give a
- straight answer (3,2,2)
- Down 1 Bee in 14 (6)
- 2 Continue to nurse Achilles, for example (6) 3 Gives false news about pier
 - battered with storms (10) 4 Rich man, a Pole, for what
 - he's worth? (5)
 - 5 Spooner's vegetables from the Sun need cold water (5,4) 6 Got up flower in 14 (4)
 - 7 What 14 did to get 12? (3,3,2)
- 8 Singular effect of three sets for 6 (8)
- 13 Whisky producer flies of

- 15 12 or less, so cite a lynx (9) 16 14's author loses city. French and Deutsch, to birds (8)
- 17 Coloured base in 14 (8) 19 Evasive artist in 14 (6) 20 White wine from the Arabian
- coast (6) 23 City of Lorraine in 14 (5)

24 Divorce centre backed by person who wouldn't use it? (4) Solution temerrow

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